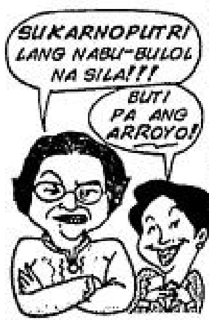
Gloria slams rich countries for protectionism

Story below, COL. 1

Los Cabos name flap: Mega-what?


SUKARNOPUTRI LANG NABU-BULOL NA SILA!!!
BUTI PA ANG ARROYO!

LOS CABOS, Mexico—What's in a name?

Quite a lot for Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

When introduced at a summit of chief executives in this

LOS CABOS/ A18

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Boy's fits sparked Moscow assault

MOSCOW—A tantrum by a frightened little boy prompted Chechen guerrillas to open fire in the Moscow theater where they held hundreds of hostages, sparking a raid by Russian special forces, a survivor said.

Olga Chernyak, a reporter with the news agency Interfax, had gone to the Melnikova Street theater on Wednesday night to see a popular Russian musical.

BOY'S/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, October 28, 2002 ★ 88 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 322 P15 website: www.inq7.net

CLASS PICTURE
Twenty-one leaders and heads of state of member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) pose for the traditional official photo during the leaders' summit in Los Cabos, Mexico, Saturday. President Macapagal is seen standing third from right, second row.

AFP

GSIS buys Luna for ₱46M

Apec leaders crack down on terrorism

LOS CABOS, Mexico—Asia-Pacific leaders launched a crackdown on terror at a summit here Saturday, adopting a slew of new security measures and condemning the bombings in Bali and the Philippines and the bloody Moscow hostage drama in the "strongest possible terms."

In a statement, Apec leaders highly praised the firm and swift efforts made by the governments of Indonesia, the Philippines and the Russian Federation to arrest suspects in recent terror attacks.

"They reaffirmed that terrorism is a direct challenge to Apec's prospects of a free, open and prosperous economy and they seek to strengthen international cooperation in order to root out terrorism in the region and to regain economic confidence," a Japanese official said.

The statement referred to a siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater which ended with a Russian commando raid

APEC/ A18

Gloria slams protectionist rich nations

By Leah Makabenta

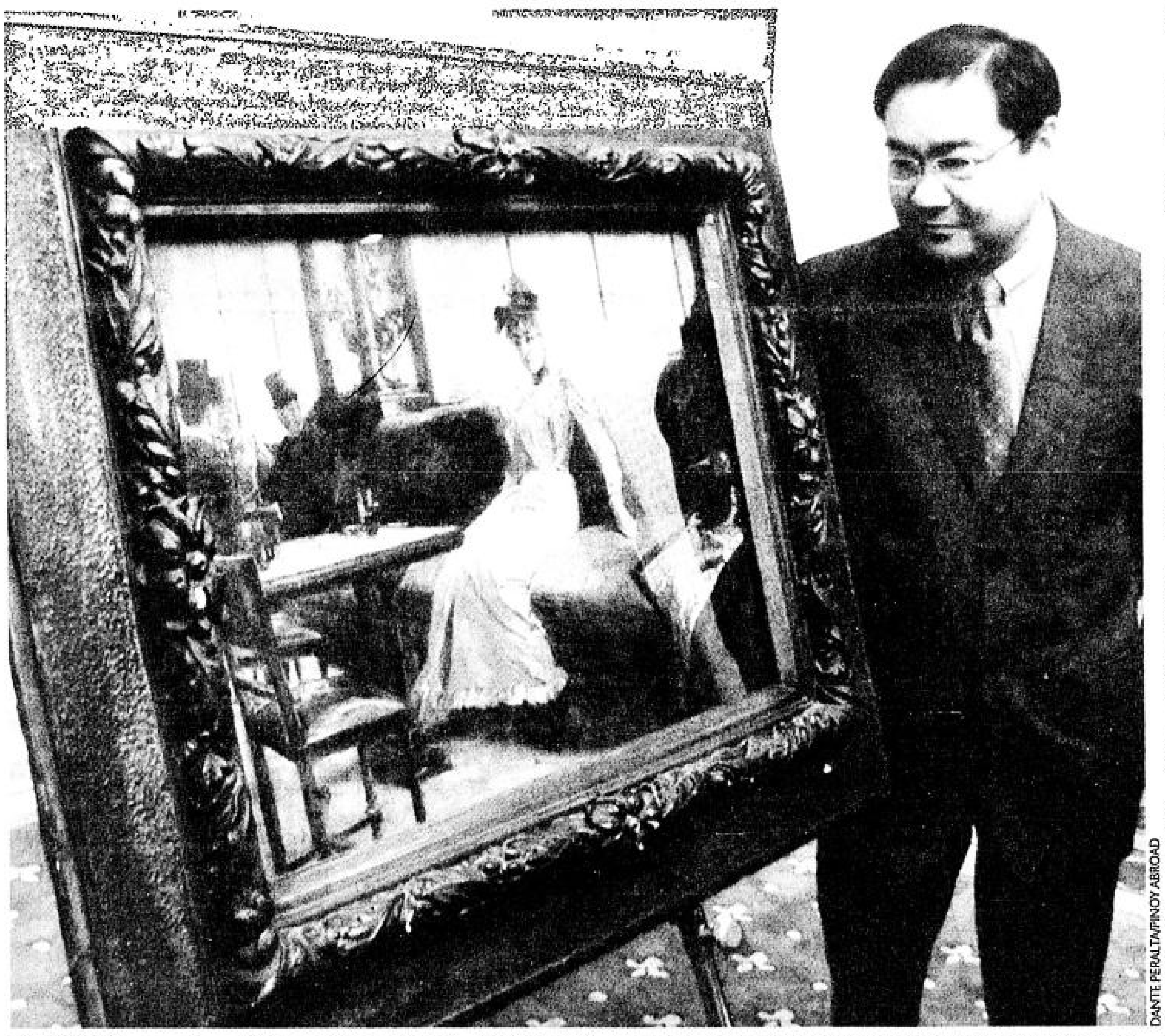
LOS CABOS, Mexico—President Macapagal-Arroyo placed trade issues back in the forefront of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum as she castigated developed countries for preaching trade liberalization but practicing protectionism.

Apec, originally designed as an economic cooperation forum, has been much preoccupied with security issues since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, the recent bombings in Bali, Indonesia, and the southern Philippines and last week's hostage-taking in Russia.

Ms Macapagal said she was concerned that the war on terrorism was occurring at a time when "we are also fearing for the global economy."

"If we neglect the economic imperative at this time when we are so concerned with terrorism we will be feeding terrorism by promoting hunger, disease and

GLORIA/ A18



DANTE PERALTA/PINOY ABROAD

BRINGING home a piece of history, Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the GSIS, poses proudly with Juan Luna's controversial painting, "Parisian Life," after winning the auction at Christie's in Hong Kong Sunday.

'We bring home a piece of RP history'

By Cookie Micaller
Contributor

HONG KONG—Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" is coming home, but at a stiff price.

The buyer is a Filipino group which submitted the highest bid of HK$6,674,100 ($867,633, or about P46 million) at yesterday's auction at the JW Marriot hotel ballroom.

The buyer is none other than the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), a pension fund for government employees whose loans to real estate projects like the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard have been criticized by its members and legislators.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, justified the acquisition of the 110-year-old painting.

"We are not buying a masterpiece, we are buying a piece of Philippine history," said a triumphant Garcia. "We are bringing home the Juan Luna painting."

Garcia denied that Malacañang had pressured the GSIS into buying the painting. "There is no prodding, no pressure or anything. We have a museum and we're really looking for a Juan Luna painting."

He defended the acquisition as a "good investment." He said the stock market was not in good shape so the GSIS was looking for a

GSIS/ A4

Warsaw revisited: From Soviet satellite to market economy

By Amando Doronila
in Warsaw

ANALYSIS

WARSAW—Fifty-seven years after World War II, there is hardly any piece of rubble to show that Warsaw was the most devastated city in the world by that war, any more than there is any significant trace of the Berlin Wall, which collapsed in 1989.

Manila is often described as the second city reduced to rubble by the war, and this is one of the few parallels between Warsaw and Manila. There are also striking contrasts, which will be described shortly, in the political and economic milieus between the Philippines and Poland. This piece is an impressionistic survey of Poland after the war and its transition from communist rule from 1990 to a democracy and a market economy. This transition, together with its unsettling impact on Poland, will be examined in depth in subsequent articles.

Thirty years ago, in autumn, I traveled alone for three months in Poland and in the Soviet satellite states, in the midst of the invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies of the Soviet bloc countries.

At that time, these states were showing signs of restiveness and Moscow was trying to reassert polit-

WARSAW/ A4

More medals from Busan, thanks to RP 'earth angels'

By Blanche S. Rivera

FOR a song—okay, eight songs—Filipino "earth angels" won two medals in an international competition.

The music of the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus (MCC) rose above those of more than 300 other groups from 100 countries, in the second World Choir Olympics held Oct. 19 to 27 in Busan, South Korea.

Mostly public schoolchildren aged 8 to 16, the spirited singers from Mandaluyong City bagged the silver in the Children's Choirs category and the bronze in Contemporary Music.

The MCC was a first-time participant in the competition. In fact, it was the first time most of the 33 choir members, recruited through the barangays, were outside of Metro Manila.

The children's trip was sponsored by city officials and some private patrons. Due to financial constraints, not one parent could be accommodated.

Choirmaster Sebastian

MORE/ A18

MANDALUYONG Mayor Benhur Abalos welcomes and congratulates Sebastian Trinidad, choirmaster of the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, which won two medals in the World Choir Olympics recently in South Korea.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/28/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Pirates kill 5 fishermen; 3 missing

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Rescuers on Sunday recovered the bodies of five fishermen who had been shot dead by suspected pirates the day before in the waters off Basilan, but three other fishermen remained missing, Reuters reported quoting police and military officials.

The attack occurred Saturday morning when seven armed men in three tugboats approached the fishermen's two boats and fired automatic rifles at the 10 persons on board. Some fishermen were hit outright while the others dove into the water to escape the fusillade.

The bodies that were found were still in the fishing boats, the officials said.

Two fishermen, one of them an 11-year-old boy, escaped the attack after they played dead, then swam to shore where they were rescued by locals.

It was not immediately known if the attackers were connected to the extremist Muslim separatist group, the Abu Sayyaf, which is known to have a base in Basilan. Officials, however, noted that pirates were common in the area.

Initially, the eight fishermen were the object of a search by naval boats, a helicopter and private fishing vessels in the seas off Pilas Island, Lantawan, Basilan.

Supt. Bensali Jabarani, Basilan provincial police chief, said the survivors of the attack saw some fishermen fall into the sea after being hit by the pirates' automatic rifle fire and others forced to jump into the water to escape.

Army Col. Bonifacio Ramos, 103rd Army Brigade commander, said the search was centered around a string of islands off Lantawan near the Basilan Strait.

The older fisherman who survived, Jingking Sali, 52, told military investigators the pirates, some wearing ski masks, approached the fishermen in the two boats and opened fire as the victims begged for their lives.

Some fishermen were quickly hit by the gunfire while the others dove into the water as the pirates commandeered their boats, Sali told military investigators.

Commodore Jay Velasco, Naval Forces South commander, said they were also hunting the seven pirates who were operating in an area known for piracy and general lawlessness.

Sali's 11-year-old companion was identified as Banad Bangca-bangca. They are both from Malamawi Island in Isabela City.

Jabarani had earlier identified the missing fishermen as Adjan Kabugnukan, Sumari Turaji, Kiyong Sali, Genes Sali, Mabini Nasai, Alanjali Albani, Majid Albani and Murphy Imam. It was not known at press time whose were the bodies that were found. *With AP and Reuters reports*

ANTI-TERROR MEASURES

GenSan bans firecrackers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Following a series of bomb threats that crippled the city last week, the local government has issued an order prohibiting the sale, use and distribution of firecrackers.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. said the ban took effect "immediately," and that only non-explosive varieties like roman candles and fountains were not covered.

Firecrackers had earlier been banned in the nearby cities of Davao and Cotabato.

"I have no choice," Acharon said. "I don't want (GenSan) to become a dumping ground for firecrackers especially during the Christmas season."

The Maranao Employees and Businessmen's Association (Meba), whose members include retailers, cautioned the mayor against selectivity in enforcing the ban.

"We will support the local government in this campaign," Meba treasurer Carlon Balyamin said. "But if we find big suppliers, wholesalers and mall owners violating the ban, then we will sell firecrackers (again)." *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Australia, RP forge accord

AUSTRALIA and the Philippines, whose citizens were targeted in recent terrorist attacks, have agreed to adopt an accord to fight terrorism and exchange information, officials said Sunday.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard proposed the bilateral anti-terror accord and President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed in their meeting at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Mexico, said a statement from Malacañang.

The accord would be patterned after an existing anti-terrorism agreement among Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, which calls for exchanges of information and cooperation in fighting terrorism and transborder crimes, the statement said.

Ms Macapagal and Howard exchanged condolences and invitations to visit each other's countries. *AP*

Petron joins Caltex, raises fuel prices by 30¢ per liter

LOCAL oil giant Petron Corp. raised the prices of gasoline and kerosene by 30 centavos per liter, and that of diesel by 20 centavos, at midnight Sunday.

In a telephone interview, a Petron official said this second round of price adjustments reflected increases in international rates from August to September. The official added that average crude prices in October precluded another increase for next month.

Caltex (Philippines) Inc. had upped its prices by the same amounts 24 hours earlier, and new entrant Eastern Petroleum followed suit at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said it would decide on its options today.

Smaller oil firms Seaoil and Flying V said they would announce their own increases later this week. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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MALACAÑANG INCENSED

Sarangani police exec sacked over escape

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A POLICE commander in Sarangani province has been sacked for negligence after the main suspect in a bomb attack that killed 15 people in General Santos City earlier this year escaped from detention, an official said yesterday.

Sr. Insp. Auselito Cabang, chief of the 1206th mobile group who had custody of the suspect, Abdul Basit Usman, was relieved pending an investigation into the latter's escape last Wednesday from police headquarters, Central Mindanao police Chief Supt. Jose Dalumpines said.

Usman, described by authorities as a foreign-trained bomb expert, is the main suspect in the April 21 bombing of the Fitmart department store in General Santos City that killed 15 people and injured 60 others.

His escape, which Sarangani police only confirmed on Saturday, four days after it occurred, was the latest in a string of embarrassing escapes by notorious criminal suspects while under police detention.

The relief, according to police spokesperson Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, would not stop with Cabang as probers were also looking into the possibility other officers could be held liable.

Incensed by the escape of yet another high profile suspect, Malacañang said yesterday it would support the firing of all those responsible for Usman's escape.

Usman was arrested on July 21 at the boundary of Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces after another suspect pointed to him as the mastermind of the Fitmart attack.

Usman is believed to be a leader of the Abu Muslim group, which has ties to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist band in Mindanao, according to the Agence France Presse.

Two weeks ago, two suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf bolted the PNP National Capital Region police headquarters in Taguig, Metro Manila.

"We cannot let this kind of madness go on," said Rigoberto Tiglao, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson.

"We're sure PNP chief (Hermogenes) Ebdane (and Interior Secretary) Joey Lina will deal harshly and decisively with the problem. The President will support the PNP if it decides to fire all those responsible for the escape," Tiglao said.

Usman's escape came just as Malacañang was asking Congress to pass harsher laws to fight terrorism, including the controversial national identification system.

Earlier, three kidnapping for ransom suspects, including Faisal Marohombsar, leader of the Pentagon gang, breached their barbed wire-ringed cell in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Marohombsar was later killed in a shootout with police in Cavite.

Two weeks ago, a suspected big-time drug lord fled his detention cell also while supposedly under tight police guard. *With Martin P. Marfil and an AFP report*

Penalties paid by erring recruiters up 200%—POEA

By Blanche S. Rivera

PENALTIES paid by erring illegal recruiters almost tripled this year, boosting the income of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

POEA records showed that the fines collected increased from P3.57 million in mid-2001 to P9.1 million in the same period this year.

This might show that collection was two times more efficient, which should send a strong signal to abusive agencies.

But it could also indicate that more violations were committed. The most frequent infractions listed were imposing excessive application fees, misrepresentation and nonissuance of receipts.

Several other recruiters were penalized for contract substitution, withholding of salaries and travel documents, failure to deploy or deployment of workers not processed by the POEA, premature conduct of medical examination, and "recruitment for jobs harmful to public health, morality or dignity."

These cases have been resolved, according to the records.

Likewise, revenue from applications for license or renewal of accreditation almost doubled from P7.4 million last year to P13.7 million.

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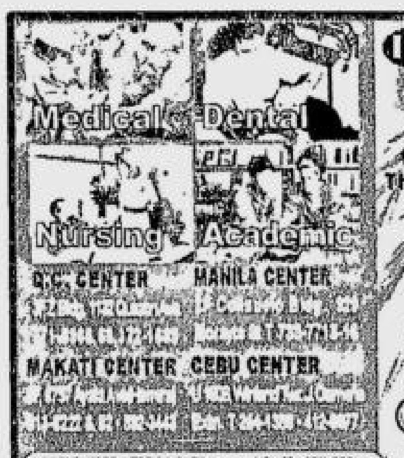

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GSIS buys Luna for ₱46M

From page A1

place to invest in.

Garcia said the GSIS was very liquid with P215 billion in total assets, adding that it has an excess liquidity of P20 billion. "We don't know where to invest our money."

The auction at the world-famous Christie's in Hong Kong—a battle for an important Philippine cultural jewel not many Filipinos were aware of—took all of six minutes.

When two Christie's employees brought in "Parisian Life" and propped it up on a wooden stand on a stage for the auction, many of the Filipinos among the 100 or so crowd of wealthy foreign bidders felt the poignancy of the event—another cultural jewel was slipping from the hands of their poor motherland.

The bidding commenced. "We have received a permit from the Philippine government to auction this," said auctioneer Roger McIlroy.

Garcia, who was holding paddle 16—a piece of cardboard raised by hand to announce a bid—did not join in until the price reached HK$2 million. The floor price was HK$1.8 million

Toward the end of the auction, when Garcia appeared to have "Parisian Life" in the basket, an unidentified bidder rang one of the telephones in the hall and made a larger bid. After four exchanges of bids, the auction tapered off. "Do I hear a higher bid?" the auctioneer asked. There was silence.

"It's sold to paddle 16," he announced, setting off hearty applause. The sale established a new world record price for the artist, according to Christie's.

The 44-inch by 39-inch painting depicts Filipino heroes Dr. Jose Rizal, Juan Luna and Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin in a rare gathering at the threshold of the turn of the century before the Philippines rose to end more than three centuries of Spanish colonial rule.

Under the bright ballroom lights, the image of an unidentified French woman and the three huddled Filipinos in the background seemed to come to life on the canvas framed by thick, varnished wood.

After bagging the painting, Garcia had to explain why a government saddled with a huge deficit would invest in a multi-million peso piece of art.

"I was afraid it would go to foreign collectors," Garcia said. He disclosed that the Philippine bidding team was particularly worried over the bid offered by the unidentified telephone caller, who Garcia said was probably not a Filipino considering the economic crunch in the country.

The GSIS museum in Pasay City will be the new home of "Parisian Life," the pension fund's most expensive acquisition of a Filipino artist's work.

Under general manager Roman Cruz Jr. in the 1970s, the GSIS acquired several important Philippine art pieces, including works by Manansala and Amorsolo. It never had a Juan Luna.

"We wanted to have a Juan Luna painting in our museum. That's why we bought it," Garcia said. "We're very happy that the painting will remain in the Philippines. As long as there is GSIS, it will remain in the Philippines."

He said the painting was important to the GSIS because it was a national heritage. "We don't put a price tag on a national heritage," Garcia said.

He added that the acquisition was consistent with the GSIS theme. "We are an insurance company so we don't only insure the future of the retirees or properties, but we also insure the national heritage of the country."

The shipment of the painting to Hong Kong stirred controversy in the Philippines because of questions surrounding its ownership and sale.

The shipment lacked the necessary export permit from the National Museum. It was also misrepresented by its freight forwarder as a shipment "for exhibition." It is illegal to put up a painting for auction if shipment papers declare that it is only for exhibition. The Philippine government issued an export permit for the painting only on Saturday.

One Filipino bidder was identified as Pico Gonzales. He claimed to be a private collector but representing a client from Manila. Former actor Orestes Ojeda, along with a group of Filipinos, was at the auction but did not bid for the Luna painting. Ojeda is a known collector in the Philippines with two minor works of Luna. He runs a gallery in Kamuning, Quezon City. Also present was Mercury Drug owner Paulino Que. He denied that he was there to bid.

Warsaw revisited . . .

From page A1

ical control, through the Red Army. Today, the only visual evidence of the vestiges of the ex-Soviet bloc is the 30-level Palace of Culture that towers and dominates the skyline of Warsaw, and a number of drab and box-like bureaucratic offices of the communist regime and decrepit apartments let to the families of the working class.

The Palace of Culture was Josef Stalin's gift to Poland after the Red Army installed a communist regime in 1945. The Red Army crossed the Vistula River, which runs across the heart of Poland and which divides the country between East and West, ahead of its storming of Berlin, and established the first outpost of the Cold War division of Europe.

Despite increasing numbers of high-rise buildings, not one is taller than the Palace. So much the better, since Warsaw has not developed into a replica of New York in the post-Soviet Era when Poland made a convulsive shift to the market economy away from the centrally planed state economy.

I cannot recognize the Warsaw that I visited 30 years ago while covering the Warsaw Pact invasion for the now defunct Daily Mirror, except the Palace of Culture and some remnants of the heroic monuments depicting "socialist realism" and extolling the virtues of working class.

Today, in this city of 1.75 million people, trams criss-cross the wide streets. The shops and modest-sized shopping center, bearing the names of Western global chain of retailers, are full of people. These are the unmistakable emblems of the encroachment of capitalist enterprise in this once most strategic forward outpost of the Soviet bloc, situated in the heart of divided Europe and facing the democratic and capitalist frontiers of Western Europe.

Holocaust

The Nazis, after the Jewish uprising in 1944, flattened the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. Warsaw had the largest Jewish community in Europe, with several hundred thousand inhabitants. After the holocaust, in which the Nazis exterminated around 3 million Jews from across Europe in Auschwitz, only a few thousands remain. A synagogue has been rebuilt on the ghetto, at which the former German Chancellor Willy Brandt knelt as a gesture of atonement for the Nazi atrocities and of Germany putting behind its episode of totalitarianism.

But the most impressive restoration project of Warsaw is the rebuilding of the Old Town. There the old buildings and houses, most of while had been razed during the 1944 rising of the Polish partisans against the Nazis, have risen again, with their medieval and Renaissance architectural integrity. Walking in the Old Town, which is now a tourist mecca and which is full of restaurants, some of them having been established in the 18th century, is not only a trip to history.

To see the Old Town restored makes me weep when I think of what we've been doing with Manila after it had been left in ruins, mainly by American shelling in the battle of Intramuros. While the Poles, despite their economic difficulties from the end of World War II and during the transition from communism to market economy, rebuilt Warsaw stone by stone, we have systematically destroyed the historical monuments of Manila (for example, Intramuros), and effaced the landmarks of Manila's architectural evolution from Hispanic, American and independence periods.

Atienza's demolition mentality

While, for example, Mayor Lito Atienza builds benches along Roxas Boulevard, facing the bay, he has no compunction demolishing the art deco Jai Alai building and converting the Mehan Gardens into a transport terminal and depot. Atienza is not alone in having that demolition mentality of our historical and cultural heritage. Previous mayors put to seed the Army and Navy Club, the former headquarters of Adm. George Dewey.

Poland was partitioned three times from the 18th to 19th century by Prussia, Russia and Germany, erasing the Polish state from the map of Europe. In World War II, it was partitioned again by Germany and the Soviet Union. These partitions underline the strategic importance of Poland in Central Europe, as an invasion corridor and gateway, to Russia or into Germany. Napoleon's Grand Armeé used the Polish corridor to invade Russia and for retreat back to France from his disastrous Russian campaign. Hitler similarly used this corridor to open his Eastern Front campaign against the Soviet Union.

Although these partitions obliterated the Polish state, they neither vanquished nor erased the identity of Poland as a nation with a distinct culture. One other similarity between the Philippines and Poland, with a population of 39 million, is that both are deeply Catholic nations. Ninety percent of Poles are Catholics; roughly 80 percent of Filipinos are Catholics. In both, the Church has a strong political influence. In Poland, it was the Church that kept alive the concept of a Polish nation that so often reasserted its independence like an indestructible phoenix, as in the inter-war years when the Polish nation recreated.

The transition of Poland into a democracy and a market economy—albeit chaotic—requires another article to do it justice. Let it suffice to say briefly that the Polish government is run today by reformed ex-communists who have shown better managerial and organizational ability than reformists like Lech Walesa of the Solidarity Movement, Walesa administered drastic structural political and economic changes whose consequences his meager managerial ability could not control, causing him to lose power as president after just one term. He now does a TV program—not on statecraft but on fishing in his native Gdansk at the Baltic Sea. As Walesa has demonstrated, fiery reformists and street parliamentarians are not always the best state managers.

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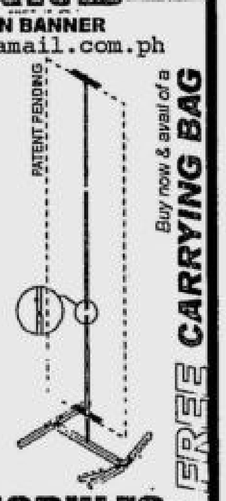

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Planning ahead for the Holidays

Christmas. The most wonderful time of the year. Well, it's supposed to be. But with the jampacked malls, the traffic and the partying that comes with the holiday frenzy, you just wish that all these merriment wouldn't turn into nothing but harassment.

The secret really in having an easier and hassle-free Christmas is to PLAN AHEAD. As soon as you have an idea as to how much you're going to spend, grab a pen, a piece of paper and a huge calendar then follow these simple, no nonsense tips:

MAKE A SHOPPING LIST

You've certainly heard this before. Lots of times. But there's a world of difference between merely jotting down names in random order, and, jotting down names in a more organized fashion.

Begin by listing down categories: family, friends, godchildren, office mates, and what have you. Then start filling these categories with names in order of importance. Beside each category, you may also allot an amount you are willing to spend for gifts. How much for each person? Or how much for the entire group? By doing so, you get an idea on what kind of gifts to give that's within your budget.

As always, for lists like this to work for you, remember this one simple rule: stick to it.

SCHEDULE YOUR SHOPPING

Now that you've completed your list, take your huge calendar and plot your shopping trips. One category for one shopping day. Focus on looking for gifts only for the people you've listed in that category. Worry about gifts for people in another category on the trip you've set for them earlier. Following this guideline gives you an indication as to how much you're supposed to spend on that day. But to make sure that you'll have enough money on hand for shopping, it's only wise to always carry your **BPI Express Teller card. With this fully-loaded express banking card, you can shop without cash using the Express Payment System (EPS) in more than 4,000 affiliated stores and supermarkets in Metro Manila and major cities nationwide. So there's really no need to stop by the ATM and wait in line,** since queuing up will definitely eat up your shopping time. With the EPS, your Express Teller card is as good as cash. So you're assured of getting the full sale price at this season's big sale events. That's because **the cash price and the sale price is the EPS price.**

To avail of the EPS, **no enrollment is needed. There are no service fees on EPS transactions. And the Express Teller card you use to withdraw cash from the ATM is the same card you use for the EPS. Also, when you go EPS shopping at participating stores at Ayala Malls, you can get up to 20% discount on your purchases or free items. So shopping throughout this season with the EPS is truly convenient and rewarding.**

Now, if you have enough time, you may schedule your trips on weekends. But make sure that you're at the malls even before they open to ensure easy parking. If you come in the afternoon, chances are you'll be stuck at the car park looking for a slot.

On the other hand, if you're pressed for time, try to schedule your shopping during your lunch hour or after work. During this season, malls will have extended hours so you'll have enough time. Sometimes, you may be lucky enough to find an item which you can buy in bulk for people belonging to one entire category. Get them in different designs when available. You'll be cutting down your shopping time, and maybe, even be getting substantial savings. Usually, these items can be found in bazaars which proliferate during the season. So be on the lookout for them.

An exception to the rule, though. If you happen to stumble on the perfect gift for a person in another category, grab it. Because you can bet a million dollars that if you plan to come back for it on a later trip, you'll never see it again.

SCHEDULE YOUR GIFT WRAPPING AS WELL

Along with plotting your shopping trips on your calendar, set your gift wrapping time as well. Do it by category, depending on which gifts will be given out first. Never cram your gift wrapping in one sitting. Aside from the strain on your lower back, you'll discover that it's going to take you forever.

Have more than enough wrapping paper and tape handy. You may also opt to get those little, inexpensive yet quaint paper bags. You can easily stuff the item inside and just seal the bag with trimmings you can get from the textile stores. Simple, yet with a touch of your personal taste and style.

SCHEDULE YOUR GET-TOGETHER

'Tis the season when faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to use once more. This is what Christmas is all about after all. So take your huge calendar again and look at the remaining slots available. Then try to accommodate the yearly get-togethers with your close friends. In doing this, accept the invitation that comes first. Remember too that you are only human, and that you cannot party all night everyday of the week. Hopping from one party to another in one night will, not only drain your energy, but will also defeat the purpose of spending quality time with your friends.

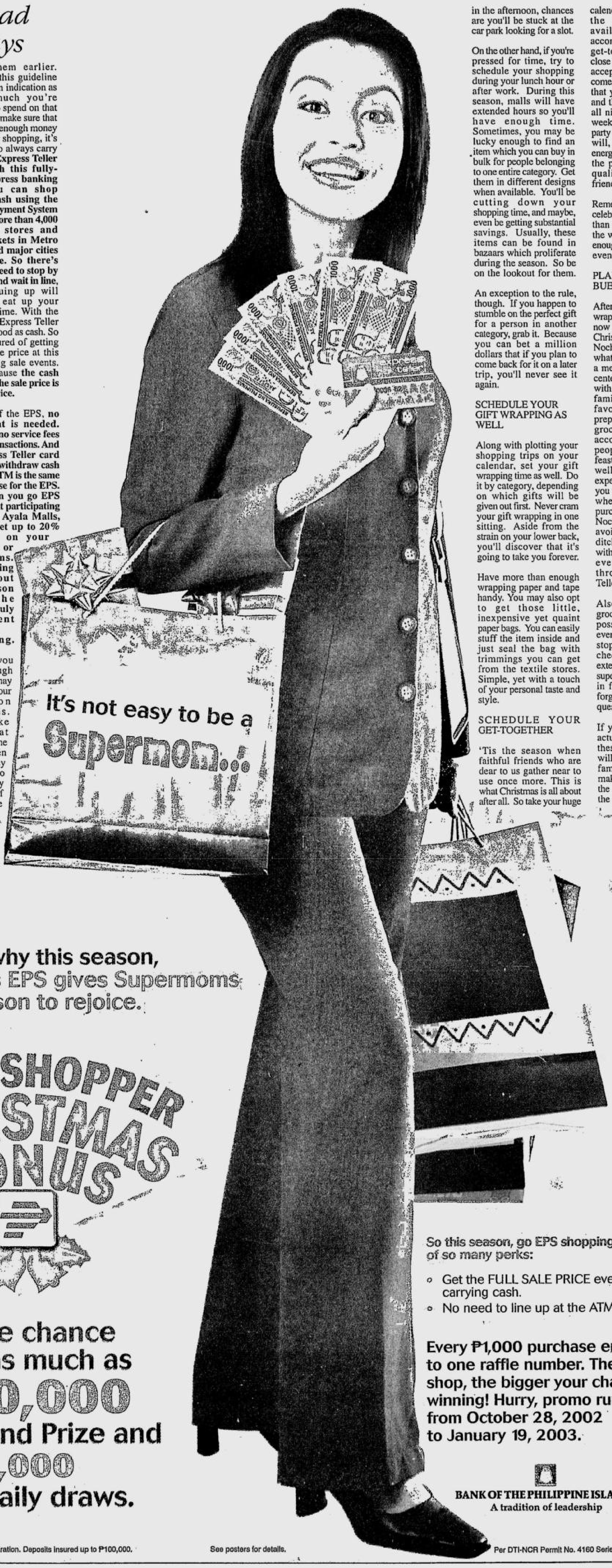
Remember, the Philippines celebrates Christmas longer than any other country in the world. So there's still enough time to spread cheer even after December 25.

PLAN YOUR NOCHE BUENA

After all that shopping, gift-wrapping and partying, you now reach the climax of the Christmas celebration - the Noche Buena. In deciding what to prepare, write out a menu consisting of one centerpiece dish, balanced with a few others. If your family has a traditional favorite, by all means prepare it. Then make a grocery list taking into account the number of people partaking of the feast, as well as the usual well-wishers who you'd expect will come and visit you the following day. And when you do go about purchasing what's in your Noche Buena grocery list, avoid the hassles of last-ditch, holiday ATM cash withdrawals. Shop without even doling out cash through BPI Express Teller's EPS.

Also, try to make your grocery list as complete as possible. So you can get everything you need in one stop. The queues at the check-out counters will extend up to the back of the supermarket. So going back in for an ingredient you forgot is simply out of the question.

If you keep in mind and actually put into practice these planning tips, you will, for yourself, for your family and close friends, make this Christmas truly the most wonderful time of the year.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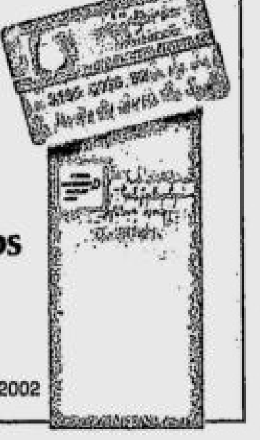

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CANADIAN'S MURDER

Kuwaiti court clears 4 Filipinos

KUWAIT CITY—A Kuwaiti appeals court Sunday acquitted four Filipinos, one of whom had been sentenced to life, for the murder of a Canadian national last year, a defense lawyer said.

Teddy Tomaro, sentenced to life in prison for ,killing Luc Ethier, was freed and cleared of all charges, Abdul Majeed Khuraibet said.

Ethier's wife, Mary-Jane Bitos, who was sentenced to three years in prison for giving false testimony, was also set free, along with Norasa Talib Esick and Lourdes Viray.

Esick had been sentenced to five years in prison for adultery and possession of a firearm, while Viray got three months in jail for not reporting the crime.

"Justice has been served," Khuraibet said. "By 5 p.m. today they will all be released. All the charges have been dropped by the court of appeals and everybody is innocent." The verdict was announced at 10:45 a.m. local time, Khuraibet said, but none of the defendants was there to hear it.

Jimmy Binuya and Rosalia Tesoro Baclig, two other Filipinos charged in the case, were acquitted by the criminal court in May.

Ethier was shot dead as he walked with Bitos through a busy shopping area south of Kuwait City, Oct. 10, 2001. *AFP*

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Lecturer JUSTICE HILARION L. AQUINO

Wednesday, 13 November 2002
1:30 - 5:00 PM Problem Areas in Modes of Discovery
Lecturer JUSTICE OSCAR M. HERRERA, SR.

Thursday, 14 November 2002
1:30 - 5:00 PM Problem Areas in Criminal Procedure
Lecturer JUSTICE RICARDO P. GALVEZ

Friday, 15 November 2002
1:00 - 5:00 PM Integrating DNA Evidence in the Philippine Criminal Justice System
Lecturer Dr. CORAZON A. DE UNGRIA
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Retrouvaille offers hope for troubled marriages

THERE'S hope for couples who think their marriages have hit the rocks—and are over.

Many married couples who are struggling to stay together, or who have separated but want to reconcile, have turned to Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery).

What is Retrouvaille? It is a Catholic healing ministry that offers hope to hurting couples and gives them another chance to pick up the pieces and rebuild loving and lasting relationships.

The Retrouvaille program for troubled marriages consists of a live-in weekend—Friday night to Sunday afternoon—and six follow-up Sunday afternoon sessions to help couples reestablish communication and gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as couples. The weekend presenters are a priest and three couples who have themselves gone through conflict, disillusionment and misery in their relationships and have experienced the Retrouvaille program.

Retrouvaille has scheduled another weekend from Nov. 8-10, 2002 at the Saidi Formation House, Antipolo City. The follow-up sessions will be held in Quezon City. Inquiries and reservations may be relayed through Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361 or 0918-9020511; Merit and Bernie at 712-3939 and Tom and Ruby at 931-8413.

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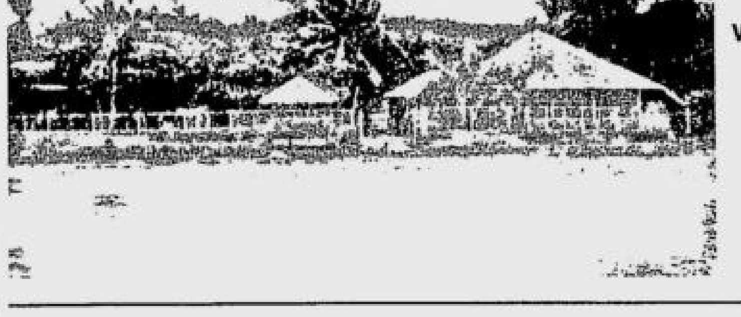

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SEE POSTERS FOR MORE DETAILS

AFP deploys more K9 dogs in Metro

By Martin P. Marfil

THE MILITARY yesterday announced that it has deployed 16 more bomb-sniffing dogs in Metro Manila and placed more than a battalion of troops on alert in preparation for the coming All Saints' Day.

The 16 dogs were lent to the Philippine National Police and would be deployed in vital installations like oil depots, mass transport facilities, shopping malls, other public places and areas frequented by foreigners. Other places classified as "priority targets of terrorists" would also be covered in Metro Manila.

"The AFP is cognizant of the effectiveness of these animals which have helped us deter bomb incidents and other forms of criminal activities in Metro Manila," the military said in press statement.

At the same time, the military said that it had placed the Anti-Crime Task Force and four regular companies of the major services on 24-hour alert.

"These are the ready deployable forces of the AFP and are on standby alert any time when emergencies occur," the statement said.

For its part, the PNP said that it was still on "maximum alert" and that the canine units would complement their bomb squads.

Zambo cops nab ex-reb; 90 kg of explosives seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police seized some 90 kilos of agricultural chemicals commonly used to make bombs and arrested a former Moro rebel in a security sweep in Mindanao, an official said Sunday.

Police Supt. Raul Gomez identified the man as Junaid Salapuddin, a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front, who was detained following a raid on his home near here late Friday.

The MNLF was the country's largest Muslim insurgent group until 1996, when it signed a peace pact with the government.

Seized from Salapuddin were some 90 kilos of ammonium nitrate and blasting caps.

"The chemical and blasting caps are the main ingredients in making homemade bombs," Gomez said. He declined to say whether Salapuddin was suspected in a spate of bombings in Zamboanga this month that killed 23, including a US serviceman, and wounded scores more.

"We have already filed the charges of illegal possession of explosives against Salapuddin."

Police last week arrested five members of the Abu Sayyaf, an offshoot of the MNLF, who allegedly bombed a military arms depot, two shopping malls and a Roman Catholic shrine here this month.

Salapuddin allegedly "admitted illegally selling ammonium nitrate and blasting caps to many people," Gomez said.

The Abu Sayyaf is a self-proclaimed freedom fighters notorious for kidnapping and attacking Christian targets in Mindanao. It has been linked to the al-Qaida network, which has claimed responsibility for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. *AFP*

DOJ allows sale of right-hand-drive cars by Customs

By Michael L. Ubac

IMPORTED right hand-drive vehicles, considered contraband, may now be legally converted and sold here.

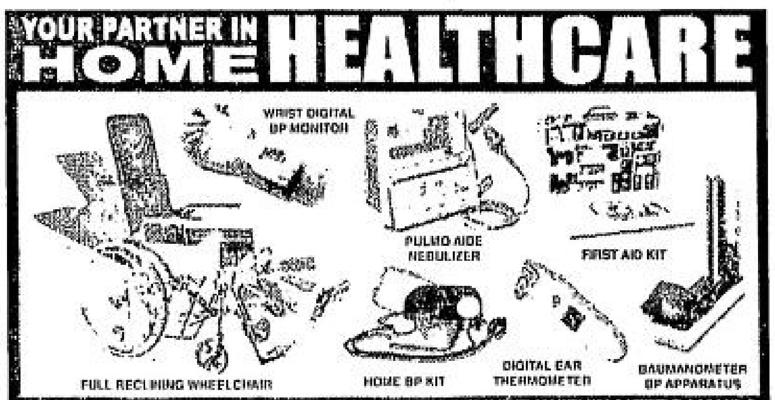
In a three-page legal opinion dated Oct. 1, the justice department gave the Bureau of Customs (BOC) the go-signal to auction all right-hand-drive (RHD) vehicles seized and forfeited by the government.

Conversion of the contraband into left-hand-drive (LHD) vehicles would remove (them) from the coverage of Republic Act 8506, which outlaws the importation, registration and operation in the country of any vehicle with the steering wheel on the right-hand side, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said.

Perez said he based the opinion on a legal query by Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo regarding the disposition of the seized vehicles.

In a letter to Bernardo, he said that it was better to "convert (the vehicles) into revenues for the government" instead of destroying them as contraband.

Perez explained that the law itself allowed the sale of contraband, provided that certain requisites were met. In this case, he said, winning bidders would be required to have the conversions done by an accredited shop, before they are issued the necessary Customs Certificate Payment.



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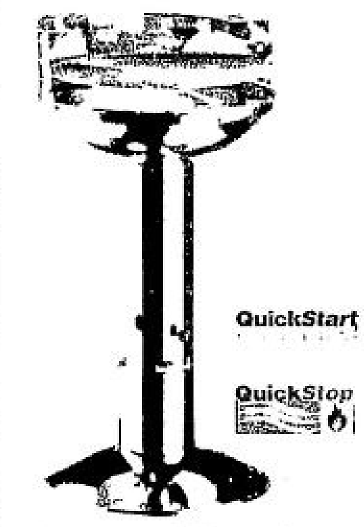

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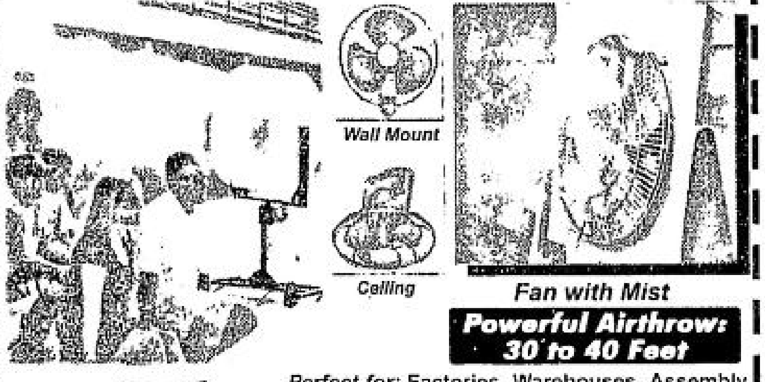

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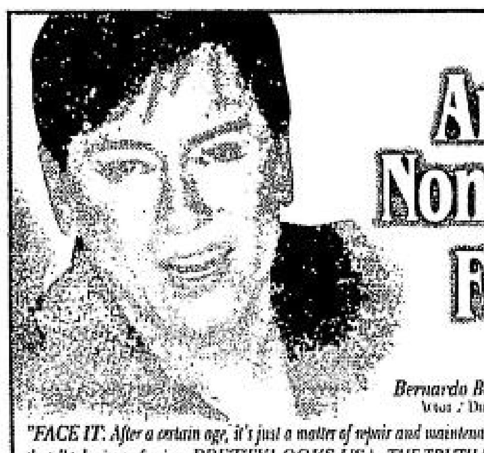

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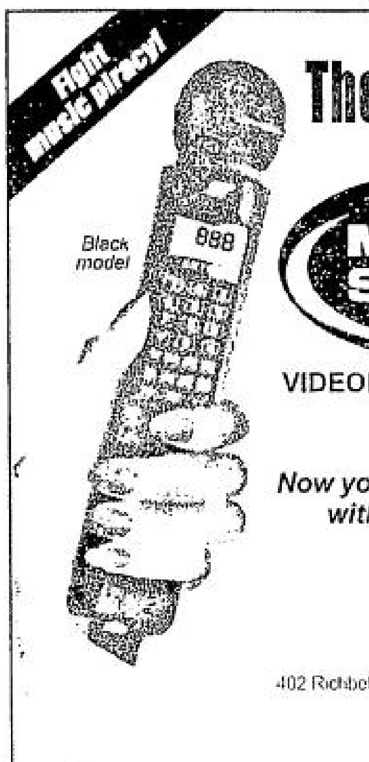

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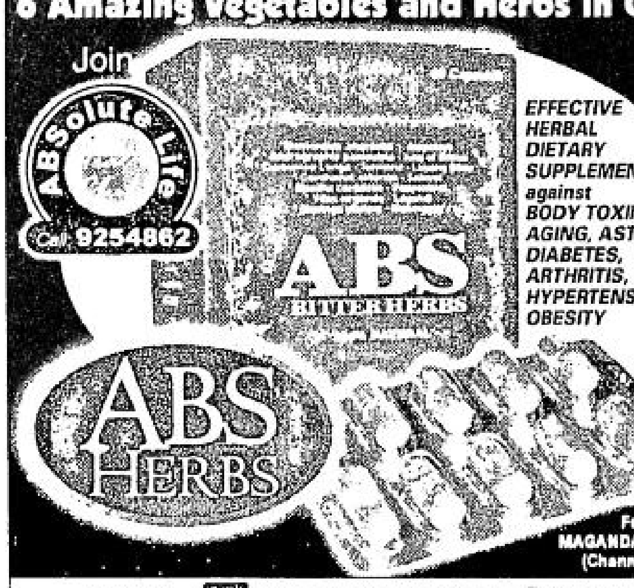

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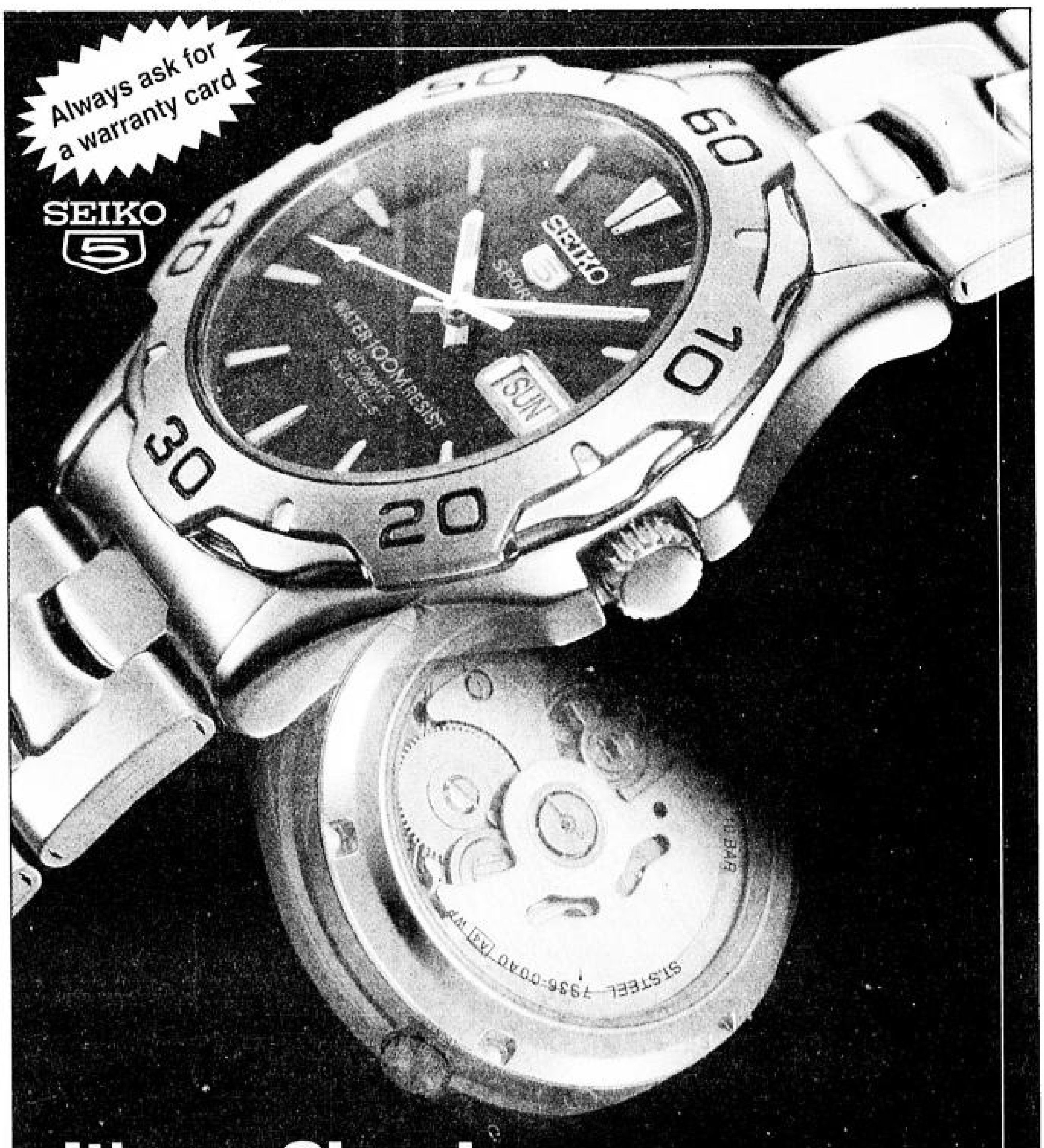

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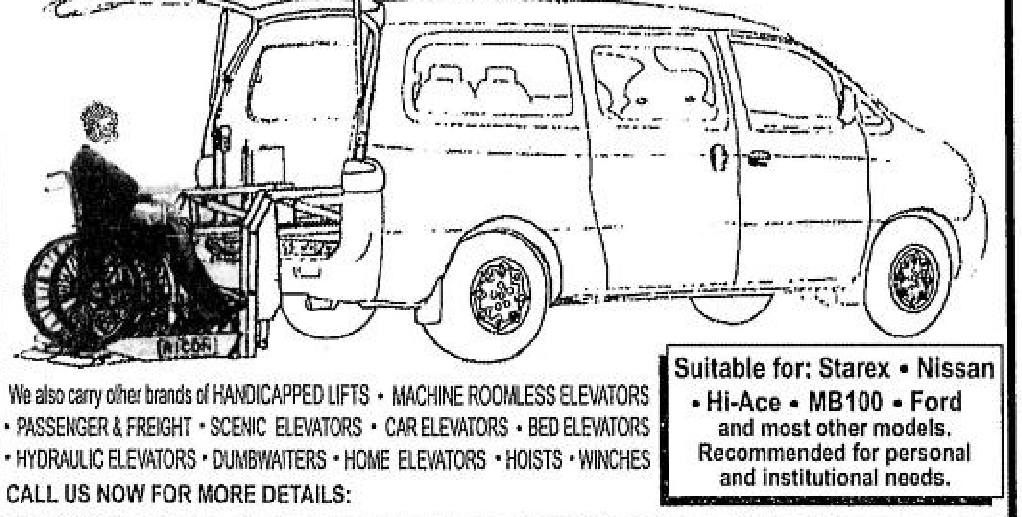

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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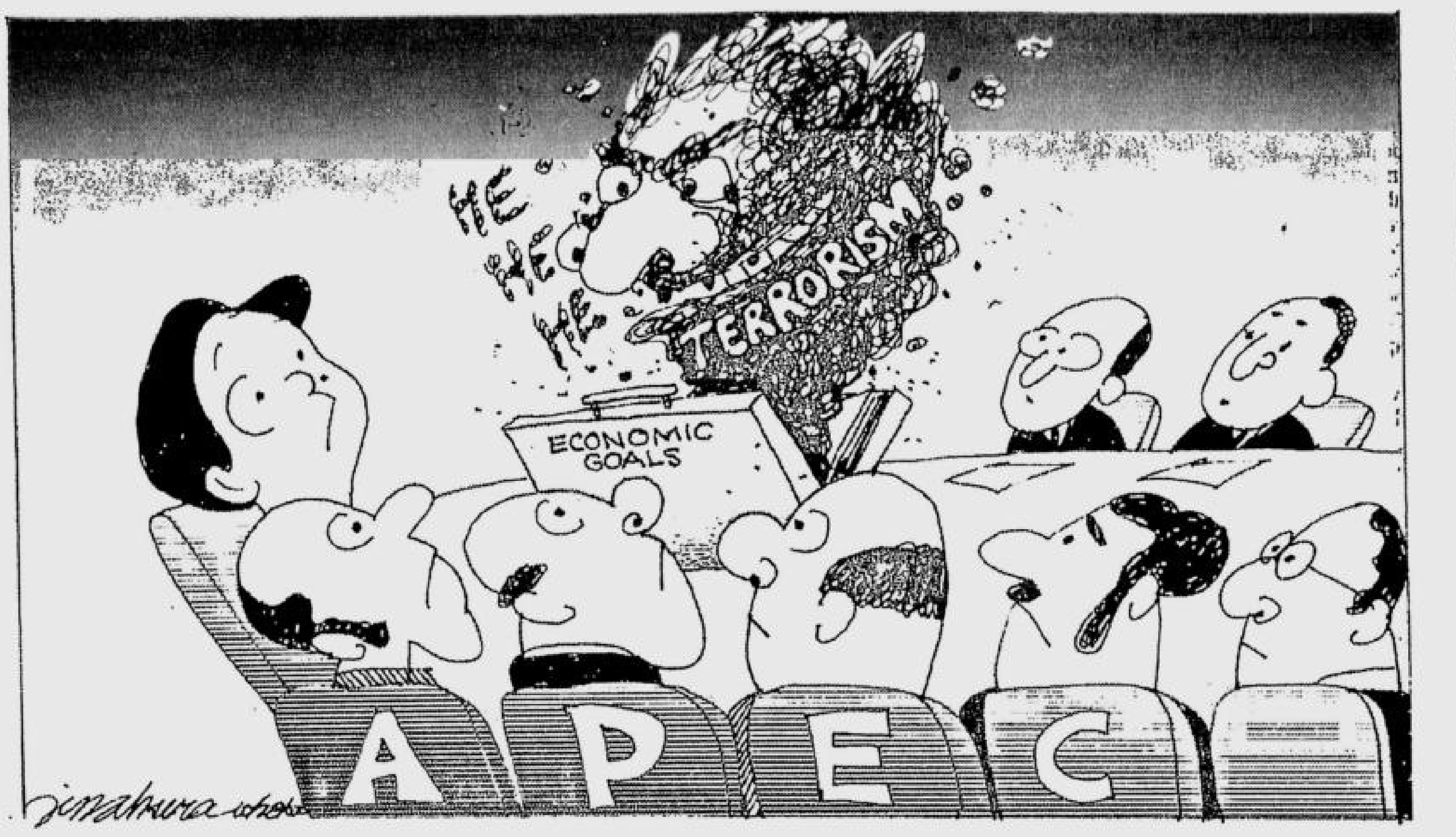

Unwise move

EDITORIAL

FOR A PUBLICIST reputed to be among the best in the business, Dante Ang has a tin ear for feedback. He doesn't seem to understand what ordinary people are saying about him. Thus, the Ang paradox: here is one image-maker who himself suffers from an image problem.

Once, over dinner with INQUIRER editors, he answered the question about the sources of his wealth blithely, even belligerently: "I have been rich a long time," he said in Filipino. Like a lawyer who defends himself, a publicist who believes his own press releases has a fool for a client.

When eyebrows were raised and tongues wagged after he announced buying into BankWise, a newly rehabilitated thrift bank, the senior presidential adviser and businessman-publisher first adopted the pose of the newly wealthy. "Don't we have the right to get rich?" he asked.

In a nation where half the population live below the poverty line, and many of the rich get fat on government pork, that didn't sound quite right. Ang's next tack was to assume the role of the patriotic investor. "I had thought that by helping rescue the two companies (BankWise and Technogas, whose distribution rights he had also bought), I would earn some praise instead of criticism," he wrote in a letter to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who had the temerity to suggest an inquiry into his business transactions. Ang then quoted from that eminent authority on patriotism, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who is of course a shining example of unimpeachable loyalty to the national interest: "helping a troubled company get (sic) above the waters (is) a high act of patriotism." Ang agreed with the former opposition senator whose transfer to the administration last July he helped engineer. "It is indeed a high act of patriotism when a citizen takes risks to help a troubled enterprise," he wrote.

After another BankWise investor and Ang critic, Spanish lawyer Ramon Collado, was arrested by the Bureau of Immigration, in a move that was widely seen as a form of harassment, Ang assumed the countenance of the ordinary citizen for whom the workings of government are a hopeless mystery. "Collado is in jail for reasons known only to the (bureau) and other Philippine authorities. I have no idea what crime or crimes he may have committed." Coming from the same man who (just to give one example of his impressive feats of intuition) suddenly acquired enough knowledge of the convoluted coconut levy issue to try to broker a deal last year, this washing of hands has too much of Pontius Pilate in it.

In point of fact, an advertisement taken out by BankWise last week stated that the President's personal publicist had asked the Bureau of Immigration "to hold in abeyance the scheduled deportation of Mr. Collado," a statement Ang himself confirmed. In other words, while Ang says—and Immigration Commissioner and former Pampanga Rep. Andrea Domingo confirms—that he had nothing to do with Collado's arrest, Ang wants Collado to stay in jail as long as necessary. Really, Ang here is too subtle for his own good.

The truth is, Ang is a political player, and here as elsewhere the stakes in the game are often economic. And here as in similar games, strategy often involves the management of perception. Ang **could** have arranged Collado's arrest; he **could** have arranged the approval of the rehabilitation proposal of the bank he is now the chairman of. Perception is Ang's currency, and it is backed by nothing less than the gold standard in politics: the full confidence of the President.

Ang has said, over and over again, that he only has one client, and that he serves her free of charge. The flap over his investments in BankWise and Technogas proves to anyone who has ears to hear that, as long as he continues to service the President's image-building needs *gratis et amore*, all his investments would be suspect. He can try on different roles for size, but in the end he would always be seen as someone who has been very lucky at the big table, cashing in his chips. Maybe he should start charging his client the old-fashioned way.

Can Comelec safeguard overseas votes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ABSENTEE voting bill just passed by both houses of Congress will allow Filipinos overseas to vote in national elections here. There are more than three million Pinoys abroad, and they can spell the difference between winning and losing for any national candidate. Which is why our legislators passed the bill—so that when they run for reelection, the Pinoys will remember that it is they who gave them the right to vote. In fact, President Macapagal-Arroyo is already using the absentee voting bill to campaign for votes in Honolulu.

Is this good or bad? Good? Wrong. I will not say it is bad; but I think it is dangerous. It gives another opportunity for large-scale cheating.

Right now, the Commission on Elections can't guarantee that certificates of canvass coming from the neighboring municipality are not tampered with. If truth be told, certificates of canvass coming from the next town or barangay can be and are indeed sometimes tampered with. Certain candidates become victims of *dagdag-bawas*.

If the Comelec cannot safeguard the sanctity of certificates of canvass right here in our country, how can it safeguard certificates coming from overseas? There is so much opportunity for alterations or even changing the certificates.

They say that the results will be transmitted here electronically, but how can we be sure that hackers cannot change the figures? It is different with Americans (Americans overseas also vote in their domestic elections) because they are more honest. Filipinos, however, are always thinking of ways to cheat in elections. And the cheats are always one step ahead of those who think of safeguards.

Besides, as I understand it, Pinoys abroad will send their votes to the Philippine embassies and consulates either electronically or by mail. While intercepting mail in sufficient quantities to make a difference may be too expensive for a candidate, it may be easy for hackers to intercept electronic messages.

But there is not much danger in individual votes being changed. The real danger is in the results being changed before they are sent to the Philippines.

Even Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, when asked at a Kapihan sa Manila forum, said that the Comelec cannot guarantee that the results of the voting overseas would be pristine pure when they arrive here.

* * *

Former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod also said he has reservations about absentee voting when I chanced upon him at a Quezon City restaurant. He said that in the case of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), he has no objection—although he also wonders how the results can be safeguarded. However, for Filipinos who are already permanent residents—or even citizens—of other countries, Monsod doesn't think it is wise to allow them to vote abroad in Philippine elections. They are out of touch with their home country; they don't know the issues and the candidates, he said.

These Filipinos, if they want to vote here, should be made to come here, Monsod said. That is the fair thing to do. Plane fare is not much, so that should not be a problem, he added.

(By the way, under the approved bill, overseas Pinoys cannot vote for local candidates—congressmen, governors, mayors, board members and councilors—only for national candidates, meaning president, vice president and senators.)

The two versions of the bill will still have to be reconciled by the bicameral conference committee. It should take into consideration the observations of Monsod.

* * *

But here's good news for the absentee voters. A new system of secure registration, voting, and counting—electronically—is being offered to the Comelec, at much less cost than the Photokina price. In the first place, there would be no need for identification cards, which is basically what Photokina was going to provide. The new system is called "Botong Pinoy," an appropriate name because it has been developed by a Filipino company.

A computer, using the latest facial and fingerprint biometric technology, will register the voter. He won't need any ID because his face and fingerprint will be filed in the Comelec database. When he goes to his precinct to vote, a computer will check his face and scanned fingerprint against those on file in the database. Only after the computer has made sure that he is really who he claims he is will he be allowed to vote.

In voting, the computer will actually talk to the voter in English, Filipino or the dialect in the region where the precinct is located, to guide him through the entire voting process. He votes by simply pointing to the names of the candidates or party affiliations of his choice on the computer screen. For those who cannot read, the faces of the candidates will be shown on the screen.

The system automatically prints the ballot showing all the candidates voted for, and the voter's computer generated fingerprint, so that the ballot can be used for a manually tabulated audit count later in case of questions and protests. The ballot will also contain a 2D barcode containing the encrypted representation of the votes contained in the ballot, so that in case of a protest, scanning the 2D barcode on each ballot can audit the precinct voting totals in a matter of minutes.

The system also automatically tabulates all votes cast in each precinct, then transmits the tabulated votes to a secure Internet website at the end of the voting day. Winners will be known on the the same day.

More later.

Well past due

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S well past due, but it's welcome nonetheless. That is the passage of the overseas vote, a thing that should have been done ages ago. It is a huge addition to the number of Filipino voters, some seven million or so souls. And one, as I've said again and again, that greatly improves the quality of the stock. That is so because Filipinos abroad have experienced other cultures and systems, which should help them make intelligent decisions. Travel does broaden the mind, even if it is not given to leisure. Additionally, Filipinos abroad are beyond the pale of guns, goons and gold.

They could very well be the swing vote in 2004.

The House version says the new voters may vote only for president and vice president. The Senate version says they may vote for the senators and party-list representatives as well. The two bills go to the bicameral committee this week for consolidation. I most sincerely hope they adopt the Senate version in full.

It is the more enlightened one. The House version fails to appreciate a phenomenon that has happened over the last decade, and one that showed itself in furious and resplendent form in the campaign to oust Erap. That is the phenomenon of the digital revolution, which has completely altered our way of life. Like all revolutions, however, it's something we tend to look at from a rearview mirror, seeing only what's behind us and not what's in front of us.

What's in front of us we may glimpse in Edsa II. That would not have happened without the agitated and vigorous participation of Filipinos abroad who made themselves heard through the Internet. It was that sense of universal—quite literally—opprobrium that pried Erap loose from Malacañang.

It's not just that local cable stations are reaching Filipinos abroad, it's that online newspapers are reaching Filipinos abroad. And it's a very interactive medium. My e-mail shows the extent of the penetration, the letters coming from as far away as Georgia (Russia) and Gabon (Africa). I didn't even know Filipinos worked there. The OFWs from Europe and the Arab countries are particularly tireless in writing letters, the reason for this, as they themselves avow, being that it helps them get over their homesickness. They probably know more about what's happening in this country than the friends and relatives they left behind. Particularly since they are able to look things literally from the outside and compare what they see with where they are.

The notion that they know only the broad outlines of life here, enough to vote for president and vice president, simply doesn't hold water. They know it to a level of detail most of us don't, often down to obituary page. Enough to know the R.I.P is hovering over the nation itself. Lest we forget too, they correspond with their families religiously, which, as the maids in Singapore will tell you, now less and less takes the form of snail mail. They probably know what's happening at barangay level better than many of us.

The whole nature of war itself, as Mary Kaldor shows in her excellent book, "Old and New Wars," has followed this pattern. There is no isolated war anymore, all "small" wars from Bosnia to East Timor have become globalized. The instant they break out, they turn into objects of global intervention (medical, peacekeeping, etc.) and scrutiny. Of course, as Kaldor also says, the paradox there is that while the wars have become globalized, they are often also fought on parochial grounds, using atavistic signs and symbols. They are fought with the banners of identity rather than ideology. I'll have more to say about this in future columns. Suffice it to say here that the world is no longer today what it was yesterday. You don't need to be physically in one country to take part in its affairs.

Only one thing more needs to be done, which is for all of us to work together to ensure the integrity of the overseas vote. Or put more simply, to prevent cheating. There are real worries there, even if they are not sufficient reason to deny the overseas Filipinos the vote. I don't buy my friend Joker Arroyo's position that we must defer that vote because we are not yet prepared for it, and it is an engraved invitation to cheating. At the very least, as the campaign for the vote itself shows, the overseas groups do not exactly lack zeal and vigilance in prosecuting their cause. They are not likely to be remiss in their duties in keeping a watchful eye on the exercise. Certainly they are not going to be very quiet about being cheated of the very thing they worked so hard to get.

Quite apart from that, cheating also happens in the local vote, and quite massively too, as the last elections showed at the provincial level. But nobody has used that to argue for scrapping elections altogether. If the possibility of electoral fraud were cause for denying people the vote, we would never have had elections at all. The possibility would have been there too the first time we were given the vote. You deny the vote because we are not yet prepared for it, when will we ever be prepared for it?

In any case, it misses the point entirely. The right to vote is precisely that, a right. It may not be taken away from the citizen simply because government cannot do its job, which is to prevent cheating. Government's failings may never be used to penalize the citizens. Government's inability to ensure clean elections may never be used to disenfranchise the citizens.

As an aside, who's likely to benefit from the overseas vote—GMA, Roco, or (if he should decide to join the fray) FPJ? Well, for the moment, let's set our partisanships aside, and just see the thing for what it is.

It is a victory for the nation. It is a victory for the people.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Roco's launch

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Saturday former Education Secretary Raul Roco celebrated his birthday in his Antipolo farm, attended by a big crowd from various sectors. The atmosphere assumed a barrio fiesta air, and people streamed in and out all afternoon. It was definitely a birthday-cum-launch for 2004.

I noted that the majority of the crowd came from the sectors where Roco has drawn his support, namely, young people, teachers, the working classes, NGO and local leaders. Understandably a lot of them were his fellow Bicolanos. It came as no surprise that there were no big political figures; the only ones there were those who had lost in the 2001 elections. The only active politico who came was his Lakas *kababayan* from Camarines Sur, Rep. Rolando Andaya, the House appropriations committee chair.

I imagine the administration politicos wouldn't want to be seen with Roco after he has indicated a determination to run against President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004; on the other hand, save for former Sen. Francisco Tatad, I didn't see any major opposition leader there either. Clearly the opposition still doesn't know how to treat Roco.

* * *

Several questions doubtless were in many minds as they watched the celebrator greet his guests. One was, how can Roco sustain the interest in himself as a presidential candidate until 2004? Another was, under what party would he run and would he have the funds for what will be a frightfully expensive election? I read that in 1998 Roco spent around P37 million for his campaign, against the billions other candidates supposedly spent. He did so creditably, landing third even without a machinery and big funding, that pundits opined that the nation hadn't seen the end of him.

* * *

If he doesn't intend this coming election to be another dress rehearsal for him, he has to raise the needed funding. But it is also a political truism that funding always follows the perceived winner. That was true of Joseph Estrada and GMA. With the opposition to field either Fernando Poe Jr. or Panfilo Lacson, people who don't like either or both of them would stick it out with GMA—or go for Roco. Support for Roco will grow in proportion to a disenchantment with GMA; on the other hand, if GMA is able to stem the tide against her, Roco would be marginalized. As President, GMA remains the candidate to beat.

* * *

I barely had time to talk to Roco at that party because of the constant stream of guests, and his promise to give me a tour of the farm didn't materialize. I suppose it's safe to say that many who trooped there did so out of friendship and/or curiosity about his political future; many of them are at this point studying their political options vis-à-vis candidates. As for me, I was so taken by Roco's Antipolo farm, which is so green with fruit trees and flower-bearing shrubs, and adorned with lovely little vine-covered nooks that I found so enchanting, that I'm ready to endorse RSR for president of the local chapter of the Green Party.

* * *

The Semiconductor & Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI), the largest group of foreign and Filipino electronics companies in RP, celebrated its founding anniversary last week, as the country also celebrated Philippine Electronics Industry Week. It's only proper that recognition be given the semiconductor and electronics industry, for it accounts for some US$22 billion of total RP exports of merchandise goods last year, or 68 percent, and employs more than 300,000 engineers, technicians and operators. It also provides the transfer of the best global practices in technology-manufacturing to Filipino workers.

* * *

At the 4th CEO Forum that SEIPI held in Makati to celebrate its anniversary, a segment hosted by Ces Drilon of ANC Business Channel featured an interesting discussion participated in by the heads of the leading companies here. The speakers stressed they remain bullish about the RP economy and committed to a successful venture here in partnership with the government. One concern was the competition China offers RP in the electronics field, and here Arthur Young of PSI Technologies stressed that while some parts of China, especially the rural areas, offered lower salaries and goods than RP ($120 a month vs. $320 in RP), China is not as cheap as one thinks, especially the more industrialized areas. In fact, as Donald Mika, managing director of Cypress Semiconductor, noted, it costs more for his company to produce products in China than here, while Melba Cuyahon, who holds the distinction of being the first Filipina GM of Philips Semiconductors in Calamba, stressed the "hidden costs" of doing business in China, such as the need for dormitories for workers.

* * *

Mike Petrucci, president of Amkor Technology, stressed that rather than be intimidated by China, what is important is that the Filipinos treat that neighbor as a "wake-up call" for them. The executives stressed the need to focus on improving the things that should be improved here, instead of lamenting what is not here. One such area contemplated by Kenneth Ellett, senior VP of Small Precision Tools, is the exercise of political will even in such things as going after colorum vehicles and smoke-belchers. The executives uniformly stressed that RP does not lack for laws, but the will to follow the existing ones. Cuyahon also emphasized the need for more positive news in the media, and to go slow "about showing the dead bodies in the front pages." No, the executives don't recommend photo-ops of GMA viewing dead bodies of criminals.

* * *

The Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc. is offering a laudable public service as the nation pauses to observe All Saints' and All Souls' Day. Called "SEEK 29766," the project works this way: if you readers text PRAY<names of your loved ones> and send them to 29766, a group of priests and brothers of the Society of Jesus will include your departed loved ones in their prayers and daily Masses.

UN and self-determination: a Mindanao view

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir

AS the United Nations observed its 57th anniversary this month, residents of Mindanao and Sulu are showing an increasing awareness of this global entity hitherto unknown except to the educated. Even then, some of the schooled ones forgot about it after they left their campuses.

Today, however, the United Nations is increasingly felt as a reality among the predominantly Muslim localities in the Philippine South. There are two principal reasons for this. As municipal cable TV stations are mushrooming in some areas, CNN coverage of some US-led UN neo-interventionist activities can be considered a third.

The first reason is the so-called post-conflict (as if there is now a total absence of conflict!) development projects. They range from "capability-building" to small infrastructure projects for members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), their families and their communities.

The second reason is the growing usage of the UN nomenclature by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) propagandists in their public and private discourse. The people are told that through an MILF-led initiative and campaign, the United Nations is duty-bound to conduct or supervise a plebiscite toward independence of the pseudo-national entity they and the various MNLF factions call "Bangsamoro." They use the latter to denote the nations and peoples that inhabit the former kingdoms/states of Sulu and Mindanao (or Maguindanao). This, they allege—and it is partly true—is according to a UN commitment to the right of all nations and peoples to self-determination.

Although locals occasionally confuse the United Nations with the United States, perhaps owing to the glaringly aggressive leading role of the United States in UN peacekeeping efforts such as those in Somalia and Rwanda, the 186-member organization of nation-states has been effectively transported from their classroom rote to their socio-political consciousness. And, as the saying goes, it is good.

To a greater extent, the significance of the United Nations in our lives can never be downplayed.

Although it is not a sovereign super-government, its moral power to bring state and nonstate entities to the negotiating table, as well as its benevolent neo-interventionist activities, have brought the end of conflicts across the globe.

The United Nations may not be totally effective, due to its lack of sovereignty, as illustrated by Russia's refusal to comply with the UN decision on the question of Hungary, or Israel's failure to comply with its resolutions on the Palestinian question. Nonetheless, one cannot imagine how the world will become less disorderly without it, as new sources of problems and conflicts and still more means of causing and maintaining them have emerged.

For the well-meaning peoples of Mindanao and Sulu, there is a compelling reason to look up to the United Nations for a meaningful shot at lasting peace and appropriate development. The tension here (with or without the armed secessionist cabals that arrogate unto themselves the prerogative of speaking for and acting in behalf of the peoples and nations in what is now the Southern Philippines) is an unfinished business that has to be faced by all concerned. It is the inherent right to self-determination of the diverse peoples of Mindanao and Sulu with vague colonial status on the eve of the 1898 Treaty of Paris. The desire to exercise this right has been constantly expressed at different times on paper or the battlefield. Whether we like it or not, this question will perennially rear its head in different guises at different times. Ultimately, it has to be resolved. Failure in this means a constant threat of potential trouble. And it must be resolved under the auspices of the most generally acclaimed arbiter of international affairs.

Here lies the importance of the United Nations to the residents of the Muslim-dominated parts of Mindanao and Sulu. Only this entity has the moral power and the collective mandate of almost 200 sovereign nation-states to demand the grant of a right that is enshrined in its charter and various resolutions and declarations.

Any mention of self-determination cries for a definition. Is it synonymous to independence and total exercise of sovereign rights? Can it also mean the final express waiver of sovereignty to a stronger colonial state? Is it anything in between?

Self-determination is a phrase originally coined by US President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 to denote the movement for independence undertaken by nations and peoples colonized by European empires. For a survey of its divergent definition and what I adjudge the most appropriate one, you have to read my next column.

* * *

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com

Civilizations clash and evolve, or they perish

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE ART of explanation ought to be firmly grounded in the science of understanding. Regarding terrorism, I am sorely troubled by how little we seem to know of the militant Islamic fundamentalism that has gone amuck and attacked our civilization and thrown the world into chaos. How many of us had even heard of al-Qaida before Sept. 11?

Yet, there is no issue that more urgently deserves our study than terrorism and the clash of civilizations that is involved, if humanity is to secure a future of peace and prosperity for all nations and peoples. Before Sept. 11, I was convinced that with the worldwide defeat of communism and fascism it would only be a matter of time before America's technology-driven capitalism, liberal democracy and growing prosperity would become a universal reality for the entire species. How quickly that expectation has evaporated and how swiftly the present nightmare has descended on the world! How and why has all this happened?

During the past year, I have been aghast at the sterile artlessness in the explanations given by much of the Philippine media and academe, of this earth-shaking phenomenon. The intellectual discourses upon it are depressingly formulaic, dominated by the unconvincing, tendentious and ultimately boring perspectives of a discredited Left, still lost in futile dreams of a socialist paradise on earth. There is ill-concealed sympathy, and even admiration, for the Bin Laden-inspired inferno directed against the West. Some even rationalize terrorism as a means of achieving the ends of justice by portraying it as a just reaction to superpower oppression and hegemony and the moral equivalent of "superpower terrorism." That is simply preposterous.

Many fallacious arguments are grounded in little more than ideological resentment of the world order that emerged from the implosion of communism. Even nationalists can only offer moldy regurgitations of antagonism to American-led global capitalism and the secular, liberal democracy that have not found fruition in the Philippines, despite a century of our trying, frustrated by our own tragic flaws. Self-criticism is a bitter pill we have refused to swallow. Blaming others is so much easier.

Our conservative Catholic-dominated civil society has always considered it politically incorrect to regard religion as a possible inspiration for war and violence. But it is an inescapable fact that al-Qaida is a movement of worldwide Islamic religious fundamentalism that seeks to drive all foreign and domestic "infidels" from the holy lands of Islam. By overthrowing Western-allied governments and establishing theocracies in them similar to Afghanistan under the Taliban, all can be reunited under a global caliphate (equal the Catholic papacy). The Christian crusades that ended nearly a thousand years of Islamic superpower status prove that Islam as a religion has no monopoly on being a root of chauvinistic violence. (The recent Vatican rejection of American bishops' proposed "zero tolerance policy" on pedophiliac clergy, also reminds us how much institutional Catholicism shares with Islam the theocratic conceit of a status above the laws of secular society.) Sooner or later, all religions must accept democracy and eschew the politics of power.

The vast majority of Muslims in the world do not share the fundamentalist radicalism of militant Islam, but they are clearly the target of a violence-prone evangelism that seeks to deepen the religious and cultural fault lines that define the ongoing "clash of civilizations." It is crucial for the West that modern Islamic societies like economic powerhouse Malaysia, nuclear-armed Pakistan and important Middle Eastern nations like Egypt and oil-rich Saudi Arabia, not fall into the hands of the militants. Opposing and mitigating the anti-democratic and oppressive aspects of all these societies is the essential requirement against that eventuality. I expect that all these Muslim countries, which have not yet felt the heavy hand of the evil that touched New York, Bali, Zamboanga and now Moscow, will also be hit hard.

It is a mistake to regard Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida as a highly centralized organization. Although al-Qaida was responsible for training tens of thousands of holy warriors in Taliban terrorist camps in Afghanistan, it doesn't tightly control them. It is more like a loose confederation of allied religious fundamentalists that even includes the Chechen rebels who recently held 700 theater-goers hostage in Moscow, as well as Uighur Muslim separatists in China's Xinjiang province. Most trainees came from dozens of Islamic and non-Islamic countries, and hundreds of organizations like Jemaah Islamiyah, the Abu Sayyaf and Egypt's Islamic Jihad, to which most have returned.

Tomorrow, President Macapagal-Arroyo will arrive in San Francisco, where I am taking a sabbatical to reconnect with the Pinoy community in America, both family and friends, and to correct my deep ignorance of Islam and terrorism through intensive study. I hope she won't alienate Filipinos here with any low-brow politicking, as many Pinoys are not yet sold on voting in cheating-prone elections at home, much less investing there. I hope she can prove to us that she is worthy of leading all Filipinos—Catholic, Muslim and otherwise, overseas or in the home country—in this fearful new era of terror, by displaying that quality so rare in Filipino politicians called statesmanship.

We must all evolve beyond whatever attainment we have rested our laurels on, or we shall surely perish at the hands of those who simply do not share our civilization's vision of how freedom and democracy shall be achieved for all mankind.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Who is a terrorist?

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

AFTER 9/11, terrorism became a buzzword. It's used freely to describe unexplained bombings, shootings and other violent crimes.

When a bomb destroyed a passenger bus in Quezon City recently, the authorities were quick to describe the incident as a terrorist attack. Days later, a grenade exploded in a Makati City overpass and a jittery police thought it was another terrorist act. They backtracked the following day and said it was a simple case of a neighborhood quarrel that led to grenade throwing.

The INQUIRER's reports on recent events prompted a reader to ask what criteria the newspaper uses in deciding when a violent incident should be described as terrorist in nature, insurgency-related or linked to Muslim secessionist activities. Or who is a terrorist? Who is a bandit?

The query reminded me of the controversy that hit the American media early this year when Palestinian youths detonated bombs strapped to their bodies in crowded places and buses in Israel. Scores of Israelis, foreigners and Arab residents were injured or killed in the process.

The pro-Israel newspapers and TV stations described the Palestinians as suicide bombers, extremists or assailants. The pro-Palestinian media outfits called them instead militants or victims of Israeli violence.

When the Israeli Army destroyed Palestinian houses to avenge the death of Israelis, the pro-Palestinian press labeled the soldiers' move a terrorist act. Its pro-Israel counterpart justified the destruction as a calibrated response to provocations by Palestinian extremists.

After a lengthy discussion of the issue, the journalists reached the consensus to exercise caution in the use of labels to describe the people involved in the violent incidents.

Subjective

Political labels, and for that matter, all kinds of labels, are subjective in nature. They arise from the cultural background, social upbringing, education and biases of the people who use them.

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as far as the Israelis and their allies are concerned, the Palestinians who detonated the killer bombs are plain and simple terrorists. However, to the Palestinians and Arab countries, they are freedom fighters or martyrs to the cause of Palestinian independence.

Closer to home, from the point of view of an adversely affected non-Muslim Filipino, the activities of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are aimed at disturbing peace and order in Central Mindanao. But for the politically conscious Muslim Filipino, the MILF represents the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsa Moro for an independent country.

To the supporters of the Abu Sayyaf, there is nothing wrong with the group's kidnapping activities as the ransom payments are meant to spread wealth to the underprivileged members of Muslim society. On the other hand, the families of the kidnap victims consider the Abu Sayyaf the devil incarnate.

Incidentally, Congress has yet to agree on what constitutes a terrorist act for purposes of our penal laws. The antiterrorist bill that is supposed to address the country's terrorism problem is hopelessly stuck in the legislative mill. In the meantime, our concept of terrorism is based on or influenced by the experience of the United States on the problem.

Civilians

So what is a terrorist act for purposes of the INQUIRER's news reports?

In the newspaper's book, an act is terrorist in nature if it is directed at, or meant to injure, or cause injuries to innocent civilians or non-combatants. The critical element in the definition is the target of the act—the civilians. These are the ordinary people who get invariably caught in the middle and suffer in the process when political ideologies or interests clash.

The recent bombings in the cities of Kidapawan and Zamboanga fall squarely within this definition. There was a clear intent to kill or maim the scores of civilians waiting for their ride at the bus station in Kidapawan City and those shopping at Zamboanga City's shopping centers. Ditto for the bombing of a passenger bus in Quezon City whose victims were ordinary wage earners on their way home after a hard day's work.

Whatever may have been the motive behind these bombings—to gain publicity mileage, extort money from the property owners, or plain vandalism—they resulted in death or injuries to innocent bystanders whose only mistake was to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Following that principle, the terrorist label cannot be pinned on activities that involve armed combatants or meant to accomplish defined political objectives.

Thus, armed forays against each other by government troops and NPA rebels will be reported as plain encounters or ambuscades so long as no innocent civilians are deliberately targeted in the course of the operation.

In the same vein, when the secessionist MILF plants explosives in the path of patrolling government troopers, that act will not be described as terrorist in nature because the MILF's political goals are well-known and the intended targets are armed combatants.

But the line has to be drawn as far as the Abu Sayyaf is concerned. Its track record of kidnaps for ransom, not to mention its inhuman treatment of hostages, clearly shows that banditry is its reason for existence. The mercenary character of its activities belies its protestations of fighting for Muslim independence. The "T" word fits this bandit group to a tee.

This brings us to a corollary question: Why can't the newspaper simply do away with the terrorist label in reporting the news?

If it does that, the newspaper will be remiss in its obligation to report the news in its proper context. Aside from relating the event as it happened, it is essential that the news be placed in the right perspective and read in relation to other incidents that have a bearing on it.

A deliberately installed bomb does not explode without a reason. It is the newspaper's obligation, based on information at hand, to inform the reader about the circumstances behind the blast. Terrorist? Part of a military operation? Or politically motivated? The question cannot be left hanging.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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How well is the cable TV market supervised?

THE NON-RENEWAL of the service contract of Destiny Cable with Star Network for no valid reason. thus depriving Destiny Cable subscribers of key program channels such as ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, etc. should be looked into by the government.

The arbitrary decision by this foreign supplier has affected about 400,000 Metro Manila viewers being serviced by Destiny Cable of which I am one. The move also clearly favors cable systems Sky Cable, Home Cable and Sun Systems which are controlled by a holding corporation, Beyond Cable Holdings, allegedly owned by the Lopez family which also owns or controls ABS-CBN, Meralco, BayanTel, Manila Water, etc.

The government should not allow this to happen. The action of Star Network smacks of arrogance and total disregard for the public interest of the Filipinos. It also appears to be part of a ploy to create a cable monopoly, which in the end, will mean higher cable subscription rates.

The government, particularly Congress, the National Telecommunications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission would do well to act immediately and investigate this matter. Specifically, they should look into reports that Star Network may have acquired part ownership of Sky Cable by swapping unpaid debts for equity (a violation of foreign ownership in media); and/or conspiracy to monopolize the cable TV market to the prejudice of hundreds of small cable operators and millions of Filipino viewers (another violation of Philippine law).

Foreign program suppliers earn millions of dollars here and must therefore act fairly and responsibly. They should respect the welfare and interest of our citizens and abide by our laws. Beyond the profit-taking, they also use our sovereign airspace to transmit their materials. Which begs the question: Is Star Network paying any taxes for earnings here? If so, how much? What does our government get for allowing Star and other satellite program providers to use our airspace to bring in programs to the local cable ends and TV stations?

Imported films and taped programs are duly taxed but materials fed directly via satellite are only required to pay a much lower VAT. Obviously the government is losing here. Our government should act now to protect the interest of Filipinos and make sure that our laws are respected, especially by foreign interests.

—RAMY DIEZ,
Mayon Street, Quezon City

LETTERS

The bane in the newest SM City

THE NEW SM City located at the Bicutan interchange of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) is a potential nightmare to local residents and motorists in terms of the traffic congestion it will generate when it opens soon.

May I appeal to Henry Sy's sense of social responsibility: It's not yet too late for him to do something beyond the profit motive to address this concern. I suggest that he visit his mall in Bicutan one of these days—especially during rush hour—so he can see for himself what the local residents and motorists have to endure every day just to get in and out of Bicutan.

—GLECY C. CUENCO,
gcc1221@yahoo.com

Weaknesses in our cultural protection laws

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the sale of the Luna painting has become clouded with many collateral issues. It is the hope of the Heritage Conservation Society that the following statement will define the true controversy.

The law applicable in the sale of paintings abroad is Republic Act No. 4846 also known as the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act as amended by Presidential Decree No. 374. Section 3a of that law defines what cultural properties are and included among those objects are "works of art such as paintings." Section 10 of the same law indicates that "it shall be unlawful to export or to cause to be taken out of the Philippines" any cultural property "without previous registration of the objects with the National Museum and a written permit from the director of the National Museum." In the withholding or granting of the permit, a procedure is prescribed, that is, a panel of experts must be convened to deliberate on whether or not the property may be allowed to leave, and the owner be allowed to attend and be given a chance to be heard. The procedure allows for venues for appeal.

The painting in question was removed from the Philippines without the requisite permit from the National Museum.

For that matter, the other paintings also being sold by Christie's such as the works of Vicente Manansala and Anita Magsaysay Ho do not appear to have had any export permit. Controversy does not hound these paintings however, because the Luna painting seems to be considered a national treasure, and being a Juan Luna, appears precious to the Filipino people.

RA 4648 provides for the protection of National Cultural Treasures, and the Luna painting could very well have been declared such. To date, however, only about 30 objects—26 of which are churches—have been declared national cultural treasures. The objects declared are uncontroverted, meaning the procedure provided in the law was followed and no opposition was made (case in point: the Manunggul Jar). Other objects have not yet been declared because of the possibility of controversy due to the fact that the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 4846 have not yet been formulated and imposed despite the law's enactment in 1966 and amendment in 1974. Implementing rules and regulations must be enacted within six months from the effectivity of the law.

The confusion caused by the lack of implementing rules and regulations hounds the National Museum. The law remains effective despite the lack of rules, but the National Museum itself cannot mobilize the resources necessary to fully police the trafficking of cultural property because of the absence of these rules.

The politicking surrounding the personalities who questioned the sale is irrelevant. What is clear is that the National Museum must be empowered to fully implement its law. Furthermore, the Bureau of Customs must pay closer attention to cultural property that routinely leaves the country. Finally, we rarely know what we have until we lose it: the Luna painting is only one example. But every day cultural property is stolen from museums and churches and homes, while antique houses and buildings are routinely destroyed. Our cultural protection laws are like our traffic laws, observed more in the breach or completely unknown and unenforced. Time to take action.

—TRIXIE CRUZ-ANGELES,
executive director,
Heritage Conservation Society

In defense of tourism initiatives

THIS is in reference to the editorial on Oct. 19 ("Bombs and economics") and Amando Doronila's column on Oct. 18 ("After Zamboanga where next?"). The Department of Tourism takes exception to Doronila's statement that tourism and investment promotion road shows "are useless and a waste of money" in the light of the present peace and order situation.

With due respect to Doronila's opinion, we believe that while isolated places in our country are indeed faced with peace and order problems, the greater part of our country, where there are also fine tourist destinations, remains peaceful and safe. We can still invite foreign tourists to visit these beautiful places.

We likewise regret that in your editorial, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon was misquoted as having said that the Philippines will eagerly welcome the tourists who now will give up plans to go to Bali, Indonesia, because of the recent bombing there that resulted in many casualties. We wish to point out that Gordon has expressed full support for the Indonesian government and has offered assistance in whatever form they require to help deal with the consequences of the unfortunate event. Gordon and the Department of Tourism will never take advantage of the misfortunes of others.

During the budget hearing before the House committee on appropriations, Gordon was explicit in saying that the Bali bombing would adversely affect the entire region. He also emphasized that he does not take advantage of other people's tragedies. But he continues to encourage our attachés abroad to continue drumming up tourism interest in the Philippines in order to help boost our economy.

Contrary to your claim that Gordon "does not understand his job," the statistics show that because of his tourism campaigns and the DOT's international road shows, our tourist arrivals for 2002 have numbered 1,530,895 so far, a 4 percent increase over the same period last year. In August we embarked on sales missions to the United States and China which resulted in a growth rate of 34.7 percent in US tourist arrivals and 35.2 percent in Chinese arrivals in the months following the sales mission.

As far as using our money wisely, please note that for every dollar spent in tourism promotions, the Philippines earns US$180 in tourist expenditures.

With regard to the report that Gordon attributed our lack of tourist arrivals primarily to poor infrastructure, we clarify that this is one of the problem areas he had cited, but certainly not the only one. Our main challenge is the lack of appreciation of tourism as an engine for growth. It is unfortunate that many people tend to marginalize it as undeserving of priority support.

Tourism, let me emphasize, is a fast lane to progress. Tourism means jobs for our people.

The DOT welcomes more people from the private sector to join our mission so that they can see how things work, how the money is spent, and how we try to make a difference in the lives of the Filipino people.

—MA. CARISSA O. COSCOLLUELA,
chief of staff, Office of the
Secretary, Department of
Tourism, TM Kalaw St.,
Rizal Park, Manila

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Anti-war protesters take to the streets in cities of the world

WASHINGTON—Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters marched peacefully on the White House on Saturday to express opposition to a possible US attack on Iraq, some chanting slogans accusing President George W. Bush of planning genocide.

Thousands more people took part in anti-war demonstrations in San Francisco, Berlin, Amsterdam and other cities.

"This is going to be an ugly, unnecessary fight. Most of the world is saying 'no' to it," civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson told the crowd at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. "Pre-emptive, one-bullet diplomacy, we cannot resort to that."

In Washington, actress Susan Sarandon, who supports numerous liberal causes, accused Bush of having "hijacked our losses and our fears." Sarandon said terrorism could not be fought with violence and that most Americans did not want a conflict.

"Let us resist this war," Sarandon told the cheering crowd. "Let us hate war in all its forms, whether the weapon used is a missile or an airplane."

Demonstrators of all ages, many religions and many nationalities gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before marching behind Jackson to the White House. Bush, however, was in Mexico for a summit of Pacific Rim leaders.

The protesters brandished signs reading: "No Proof, No War," "Bush Sucks" and "Pre-emptive Impeachment." Some protesters carried Iraqi flags. "No war, no way," shouted a protester wearing a mask of Bush with horns and a pitchfork.

"George Bush, you can't hide. We charge you with genocide!" chanted the demonstrators, who were escorted by mounted US Park Police and watched by 600 police officers along the route in the heart of the nation's capital.

Bush has made "regime change" in Iraq—ousting President Saddam Hussein—a policy of his administration. Bush has said that if the United Nations fails to compel Iraq to give up any weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological or nuclear arms—it possesses, the United States would do so by force if necessary. Congress has given Bush the authorization he sought to carry out a possible attack.

Police did not give an official estimate of the size of the crowd in Washington. Tony Murphy, an organizer of the event, said 150,000 people participated. Other observers put the figure between 40,000 and 50,000.

In San Francisco, known for its liberal politics and history of activism, a crowd that police estimated at about 42,000 marched near the city's historic Ferry Building to its Civic Center.

A group of about 20 children led the parade as protesters carried signs bearing pictures of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld beneath the words "weapons of mass destruction." Other signs read: "No blood for oil" and "Regime change begins at home. Vote on Nov. 5," referring to the US congressional elections.

In Germany, demonstrations were staged in about 70 towns and cities. The largest was in Berlin, where almost 10,000 people marched. In Amsterdam, some 4,000 people rallied in heavy rain to protest against US policy.

In Washington, protesters called on Bush to spend the tens of billions of dollars that a war against Iraq could cost on social programs in the United States. They also argued that sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the 1991 Gulf War should be lifted, blaming them for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

About 500 Iraqi exiles came to Washington to show support for efforts to remove Saddam from power.

Tamir Musa, an Iraqi who has lived in Michigan for 10 years, said, "The war is good if it goes to kill Saddam Hussein. He has a lot of bombs. He's terrorist number one."

"If violence fixed the problem, then Israel should be at peace," countered Rick Blumhorst of Kansas, a US Gulf War veteran wearing his Army dress uniform. "Acting unilaterally, we're going to inflame the Muslim community."

Reuters

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In San Francisco, known for its liberal politics and history of activism, a crowd that police estimated at about 42,000 marched near the city's historic Ferry Building to its Civic Center.

A group of about 20 children led the parade as protesters carried signs bearing pictures of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld beneath the words "weapons of mass destruction." Other signs read: "No blood for oil" and "Regime change begins at home. Vote on Nov. 5," referring to the US congressional elections.

In Germany, demonstrations were staged in about 70 towns and cities. The largest was in Berlin, where almost 10,000 people marched. In Amsterdam, some 4,000 people rallied in heavy rain to protest against US policy.

In Washington, protesters called on Bush to spend the tens of billions of dollars that a war against Iraq could cost on social programs in the United States. They also argued that sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the 1991 Gulf War should be lifted, blaming them for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians.

About 500 Iraqi exiles came to Washington to show support for efforts to remove Saddam from power.

Tamir Musa, an Iraqi who has lived in Michigan for 10 years, said, "The war is good if it goes to kill Saddam Hussein. He has a lot of bombs. He's terrorist number one."

"If violence fixed the problem, then Israel should be at peace," countered Rick Blumhorst of Kansas, a US Gulf War veteran wearing his Army dress uniform. "Acting unilaterally, we're going to inflame the Muslim community."

Reuters

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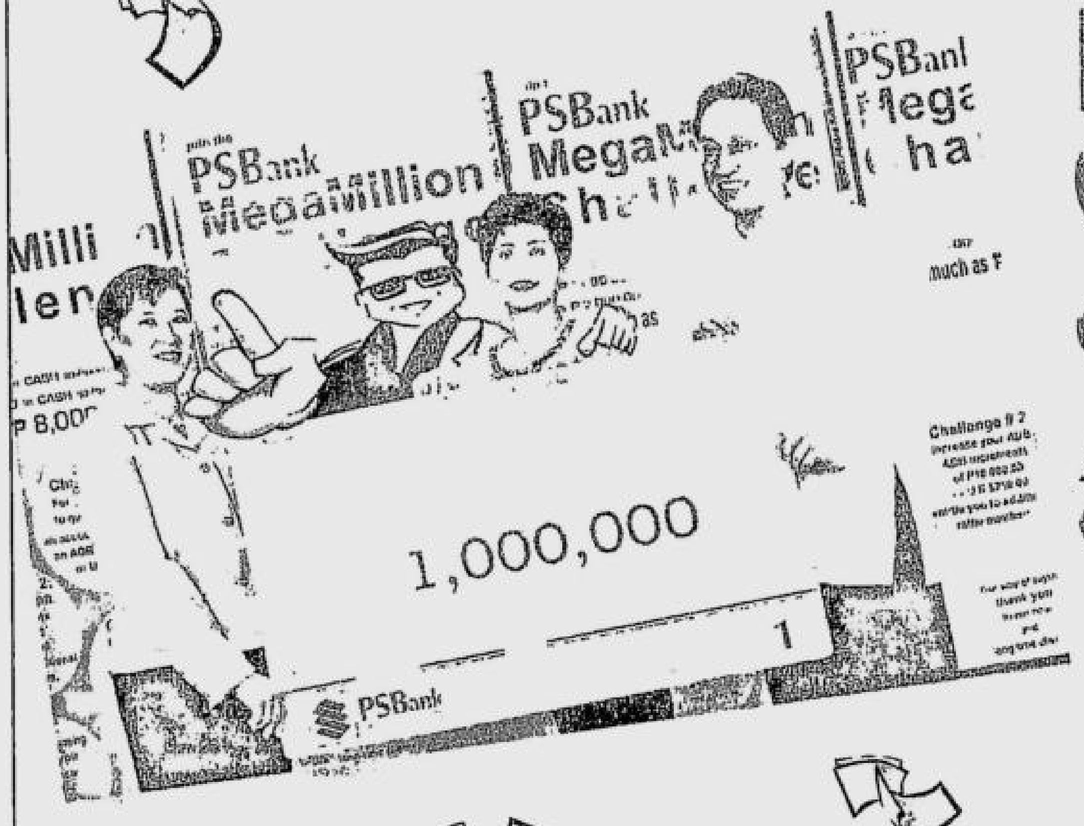

100 winners of
P1,000 each

- Aurora Urbano Maglalang
- Mr. Adriano Salunga
- Awe Tiu
- Philip L. Ling &/or Lesley T. Ling
- Kang Tao Chen
- Willy Sy
- St Louis School Inc (Grade School)
- Eleanor V Ecal or Bartolome S. Ecal
- Mr. Victor C. Gisala
- Ophelia F. Marasigan
- Provident Plans International Corp
- Conrado Bondad or Andrew Bondad or Victoria Bondad
- Ms. Mary Grace D. Como
- Jocelyn Santos
- Ms. Analyn Saul
- Huai Chun Wang
- Elsie Po
- Peter Yap/ Peterson Yap/ Jefferson Ralida/ Douglas Ong
- Rolando A. Uy
- Ms. Leticia Oliger
- Norma Dela Cruz
- Rural Bank of Candelaria Inc.
- Mr. Albert Co
- Bonifacio Sia & or Lydia Sia & or Bernard Joan Sia
- K&K Electrical & Industrial Supply
- San Remegio Beach Club
- Baseline Restaurant
- Lucy Rabillas
- Ms. Avelina M. Montemayor or Editha M. Montemayor
- Ms. Michelle Joy B.
- (M) Carrasco
- Net Atbp. Business Center
- Marichu Novales Damaso
- Myrna B. Boyose
- Ms. Chen Ya Ling
- Dumpsite Children's Center
- Antonio L. Diya, Jr. or Marvin L. Diya
- Ranulfo A. Dacalos
- Mr. Flaviano Lomugdang Mosquera Jr.
- Bayani Evangelista Rivera
- Progressive Mason Club Inc.
- Mauro T. Corpuz and or Miguela T. Corpuz
- Cecille U. Alejandro
- Eastern Steel Fabricators Philippines
- Mr. Clemente Juan Luis
- Josefina N. Espiritu and Jovito Espiritu
- Ms. Victoria Gamboa / or J. Magnaye Etc.
- Taal Polymedic Hospital
- Jose Ignacio
- Isabelita B. Manigbas
- Mr. Jorge Ilag Lontoc
- Nancy L. Aldovino
- Mr. Yeung Ching / or Yu Sua Wai
- Ms. Noemi Molina
- Mrs. Ossana F. Carreon
- Julian S. Ramos
- Mr. Ching Wai Yeung
- Hans Co or Eusebia Co
- Dennis Tan and Alfonso Tan
- Mr. Norberto L. Arroza
- Diana Uy Pardo
- Marcos Trinidad & or Remedios Trinidad
- Ms. Julieta S. Malonzo
- Romeo V. Vitug
- Robertli Samson Baron
- Carmen Choa Uy
- Eufemia E. Rodriguez or Edgardo E. Veluz
- Associated Construction & Trading
- Parc Chateau Condo Unit Owners Assn
- St. Rose of Lima Drug Corp
- Mega Phils. Mfg Corporation
- Evapia Precision Tooling Co
- Ms. Carmen Santos ITF: Renante Santos
- Adela R. Cabuay
- Candida C. Palma
- Evangeline A. Jose
- Maria C. Pe or Oo Kian Tok
- Warlie Zuniga & or Delia Zuniga
- Ana S. Uy
- Lim Sy Su
- Mrs Janet Franchina
- Ms. Nimfa A. Bregente
- Aurora R. Llamas
- Hi-Estate Realty Corporation
- Robert Tan
- Ms. Emelyn V. Nuestro TIFF: Jeckle Intl.
- W B X Construction
- Remedios T. Parungao
- Edgar Pascual Omega
- Lourdes M. Constantino
- Federico Lee
- Wilson Yao
- Fortunato Sioson & or Julito Sioson
- Danilo S. Mercado
- Ms. Ma. Cristina Puno Cuello Angeles
- Ma. Nimia Razon Cantavic
- Normita Zapanta or Maria Gladys R. Zapanta
- Samahang Kapit-Bisig ng Bukal II Inc.
- Regina L. Valenzuela
- Starwood
- Mr. Rico Benedicto

10 winners
of P10,000 each

- Reynaldo L. Torres & or Ramon P. Torres & or Ma.Divina P. Torres
- Lilybeth Joy B. Miyazono
- Remedios M. Rivera
- YTL Miling Corp.
- Clara Anunciacion Floria
- Lipa City Parish Multi-Purpose Coop
- Mr. Alfredo Tan
- Araceli S. Sarabia
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N. Korea told to scrap nuke arms program

LOS CABOS—The United States, Japan and South Korea demanded on Saturday that North Korea quickly dismantle its nuclear weapons program as US President George W. Bush worked to isolate North Korean President Kim Jong-il.

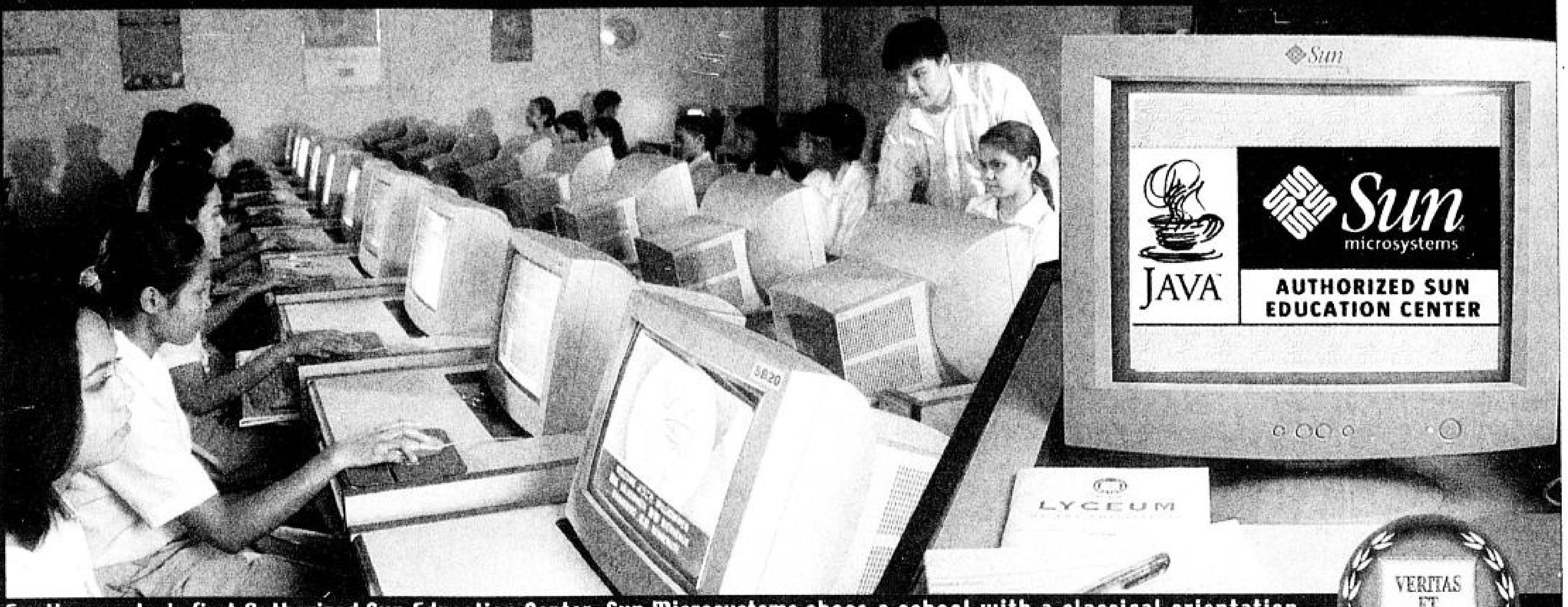
In a joint statement issued at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit here, Bush, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung reaffirmed a commitment for a peaceful Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

"The three leaders called upon North Korea to dismantle this program in a prompt and verifiable manner," the statement said.

The statement spelled out no consequences for inaction. US Secretary of State Colin Powell said diplomatic and political pressure will be applied and that there has been no discussions yet on economic penalties or other sanctions.

North Korea triggered a crisis by admitting earlier this month that it had violated a 1994 agreement with the United States, Japan and South Korea to control its nuclear program. US officials believe the program has spawned one or two nuclear bombs.

North Korea was the dominant theme for Bush, who is seeking a common strategy for dealing peacefully with the North Korean challenge by consulting key allies in Asia as well as Russia and Europe. *Reuters*



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Trooper Class : 30.82 km/liter
Crosswind M/T : 36.48 km/liter
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Fuel efficiency calculation - absolute distance (89.6km) divided by fuel consumed.

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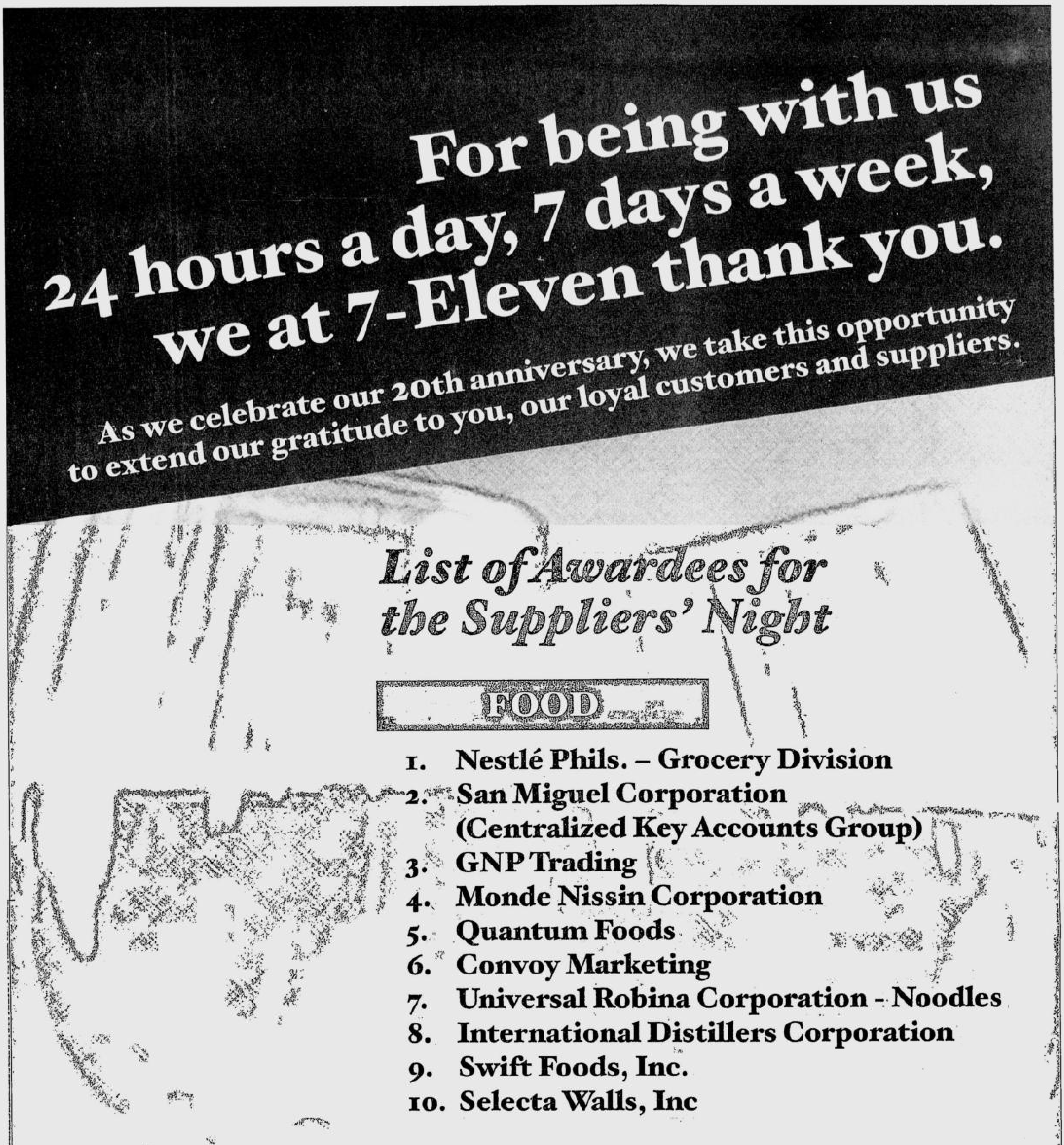

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1. Nestlé Phils. – Grocery Division
2. San Miguel Corporation (Centralized Key Accounts Group)
3. GNP Trading
4. Monde Nissin Corporation
5. Quantum Foods
6. Convoy Marketing
7. Universal Robina Corporation - Noodles
8. International Distillers Corporation
9. Swift Foods, Inc.
10. Selecta Walls, Inc

NON-FOOD

11. Unilever Philippines
12. Gate Distribution Enterprises
13. Colgate Palmolive Philippines
14. NG Trading
15. Johnson & Johnson Philippines

FOOD SERVICE

16. Arlees Bread House, Inc.
17. Cherry Hill Food Co.
18. Foodsphere, Inc.
19. Del Monte Philippines
20. Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines

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NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

	Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification	Tax Dec. #	LOCATION / YEAR	Interest Due	Amount of Delinquency
1.	PUBLIC ESTATE AUTHORITY	8,095	COMMERCIAL	E004-01832	DON GALO 2001-2002	466,272.00	1,457,100.00
		45,033	COMMERCIAL	E002-06907	BACLARAN 2001-2002	1,556,340.48	4,863,564.00
		2,394	COMMERCIAL	E002-06908	BACLARAN 2001-2002	11,491.20	35,910.00
		3,768	COMMERCIAL	E002-06909	BACLARAN 2001-2002	18,086.40	56,520.00
		7,976	COMMERCIAL	E002-06910	BACLARAN 2001-2002	38,284.80	119,640.00
		12,584	COMMERCIAL	E002-06911	BACLARAN 2001-2002	60,403.20	188,760.00
		27,714	COMMERCIAL	E002-06912	BACLARAN 2001-2002	133,027.20	415,710.00
		27,062	COMMERCIAL	E002-06913	BACLARAN 2001-2002	129,897.60	405,930.00
		12,773	COMMERCIAL	E002-06914	BACLARAN 2001-2002	441,434.88	1,379,484.00
		4,862	COMMERCIAL	E002-06915	BACLARAN 2001-2002	23,337.60	72,930.00
		28,815	COMMERCIAL	E002-06916	BACLARAN 2001-2002	138,312.00	432,225.00
		7,840	COMMERCIAL	E002-06917	BACLARAN 2001-2002	37,632.00	117,600.00
		12,001	COMMERCIAL	E002-06918	BACLARAN 2001-2002	57,604.80	180,015.00
		5,000	COMMERCIAL	E005-01748	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	288,000.00	900,000.00
		221	COMMERCIAL	E005-01749	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	12,729.60	39,780.00
		209	COMMERCIAL	E005-01753	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	12,038.40	37,620.00
		4,767	COMMERCIAL	E010-08509	SN DIONISIO 2001-2002	274,579.20	858,060.00
		10,916	RESIDENTIAL	E010-08513	SN DIONISIO 2001-2002	167,654.40	523,920.00
	PUBLIC ESTATE AUTHORITY	1,578,441	RESIDENTIAL	E010-06500	TAMBO 2001-2002	6,699,772.93	20,936,790.40
		10,796	RESIDENTIAL	E015-06580	TAMBO 2001-2002	165,826.56	518,208.00
		8,522	COMMERCIAL	E002-06914	TAMBO 2001-2002	375,667.20	1,173,960.00
		1,752	COMMERCIAL	E002-16915	TAMBO 2001-2002	100,915.20	315,360.00
		20,945	COMMERCIAL	E002-06916	TAMBO 2001-2002	1,206,432.00	3,770,100.00
		3,396	COMMERCIAL	E002-06917	TAMBO 2001-2002	117,365.76	366,768.00
		800	COMMERCIAL	E002-06918	TAMBO 2001-2002	3,840.00	12,000.00
		20,310	COMMERCIAL	E005-01748	TAMBO 2001-2002	97,488.00	304,650.00
		71,189	COMMERCIAL	E005-01749	TAMBO 2001-2002	2,460,291.84	7,688,412.00
		137,784	COMMERCIAL	E005-01753	TAMBO 2001-2002	4,761,815.04	14,880,672.00
		837,361	COMMERCIAL	E005-08509	TAMBO 2001-2002	56,809,624.32	177,530,076.00
		5,910	COMMERCIAL	E010-08513	TAMBO 2001-2002	204,249.60	638,280.00
		3,017	RESIDENTIAL	E004-01827	DON GALO 2001-2002	46,341.12	144,816.00
		5,000	RESIDENTIAL	E005-01751	LA HUERTA 2000-2002	132,600.00	330,000.00
				Sub-Total		77,049,355.33	240,694,860.40
2.	D.M. WENCESLAO & TCT-100315	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06716	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	ASSOCIATIES INC. TCT-100816	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06717	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-100817	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06718	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-100818	7,720	COMMERCIAL	E015-06719	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,511,190.00	2,952,900.00
	TCT-104641	13,610	COMMERCIAL	E015-06720	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,665,919.25	5,209,267.50
	TCT-99880	21,466	COMMERCIAL	E015-06721	TAMBO 1998-2002	4,201,969.50	8,210,745.00
	TCT-104639	10,531	COMMERCIAL	E015-06731	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,061,443.25	4,028,107.50
	TCT-104640	10,558	COMMERCIAL	E015-06732	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,066,728.50	4,038,435.00
	TCT-104643	10,573	COMMERCIAL	E015-06734	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,069,664.75	4,044,172.50
	TCT-101006	34,540	COMMERCIAL	E015-06735	TAMBO 2000-2002	4,103,352.00	9,325,800.00
	TCT-134310	39,391	COMMERCIAL	E015-06738	TAMBO 1998-2002	7,710,788.25	15,067,057.50
	TCT-134311	25,671	COMMERCIAL	E015-06739	TAMBO 1998-2002	5,025,098.25	9,819,157.50
	TCT-136258	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06771	TAMBO 2001-2002	576,000.00	1,800,000.00
				Sub-Total		37,864,653.75	75,970,642.50
3	WENDEL HOLDING CO. INC. TCT-106043	53,620	COMMERCIAL	E015-06726	TAMBO 1998-2002	10,498,072.50	20,513,475.00
	TCT-107468	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06728	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-134308	79,384	COMMERCIAL	E015-06736	TAMBO 1998-2002	15,539,418.00	30,364,380.00
				Sub-Total		27,994,990.50	54,702,855.00
4.	MANILA BAY LAND HOLDING INC. TCT-95324	70,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06715	TAMBO 1999-2002	12,852,000.00	25,200,000.00
5.	MANILA BAY PARK DEV. INC. TCT-135240	13,699	COMMERCIAL	E015-05803	TAMBO 1999-2002	209,594.74	410,970.00
	TCT-136449	7,154	COMMERCIAL	E015-06704	TAMBO 1999-2002	109,456.20	214,620.00
	TCT-136452	5,621	COMMERCIAL	E015-06707	TAMBO 1999-2002	819,541.80	1,770,615.00
	TCT-136454	6,868	COMMERCIAL	E015-06709	TAMBO 1999-2002	1,001,354.40	2,163,420.00
	TCT-136455	5,857	COMMERCIAL	E015-06710	TAMBO 1999-2002	853,950.60	1,844,955.00
	TCT-135242	21,567	COMMERCIAL	E015-06712	TAMBO 1999-2002	3,959,701.20	7,764,120.00
	TCT-135243	1,250	COMMERCIAL	E015-06713	TAMBO 1999-2002	19,125.00	37,500.00
	TCT-135244	1,250	COMMERCIAL	E015-06714	TAMBO 1999-2002	19,125.00	37,500.00
				Sub-Total		6,991,848.94	14,243,700.00
6	PEDRO ASEDILLO TCT NO.	24,448	LAND	E010-06611	SN. DIONISIO 1979-2002	1,101,854.07 1,101,854.07	1,374,447.60 1,374,447.60
				Sub-Total		2,203,708.14	2,748,895.20
7.	S&A GUISANO CAGAYAN INC. TCT NO. 63630	5,000	COM'L. LAND	E009-07973	SN. ANTONIO 1979-2002	722,149.92 422,269.92	1,070,208.00 566,208.00
				Sub-Total		1,144,419.84	1,636,416.00
8.	MOLERA CONST. INC. TCT NO.	3,207	LAND	E009-09438	SN. ANTONIO 1979-2002	710,461.30 425,956.04	902,109.60 482,728.90
				Sub Total		1,136,417.34	1,384,838.50
9.	BENITO DELA CRUZ		LAND	E010-01896	SN. DIONISIO 1994-2002	5,249.76	4,233.60 4,233.60
				Sub Total			2,778,144.20
	TCT NO. 154690	252		E010-01897	1994-2002	6,770.40	5,401.80 5,401.80
				Sub Total			10,803.60
	TCT NO. 154692	252		E010-01898	1994-2002	6,770.40	5,401.80 5,401.80
				Sub Total			10,803.60
				E010-01943	1994-2002	5,249.76	4,233.60 4,233.60
				Sub Total			8,467.20
				E010-01944	1994-2002	2,619.36	2,089.80 2,089.80
				Sub Total			4,179.60
				E010-05411	1979-2002	247,852.00	99,841.80 99,841.80
				Sub Total			199,683.60
				E010-05412	1979-2002	442,745.12	175,262.76 175,262.76
				Sub Total			350,525.52
10	PUBLICA MOTOR SALES CORP.		IMPROVEMENT	E014-04443	SUN VALLEY 1991-2002	442,351.96	193,505.40 372,516.00
				Sub Total			566,021.40
11	GABRIEL LOZADA TCT A-PSD 5082	17,076	LAND	E007-07097	MERVILLE 1979-2002	462,049.76	272,737.20 272,737.20
				Sub Total			545,474.40
12	DEDERICO DE CASTRO TCT		LAND	E010-06355	SN. DIONISIO 1981-2002	433,032.91	178,699.23 343,116.42
				Sub Total			521,815.65
13	BEATRIZ CRUZ TCT NO.		LAND	E010-06479	1979-2002	230,755.82 144,521.42	338,017.80 189,337.80
				Sub Total		375,277.24	527,355.60
14	MARIO NOLASCO ET AL TCT		LAND	E010-08471 E010-06334	SN DIONISIO 1979-2002	471,534.20	582,518.92
15	DOMINGO POBLETE TCT-114196	15,376	LAND	E013-01380	STO. NIÑO 1979-2002	388,949.44	225,104.52 225,104.52
				Sub Total			450,209.04
16	ROSALINA SALVADOR TCT NO.		LAND	E009-09265	SN. ANTONIO 1997-2002	140,000.40	80,460.00 160,920.00
				Sub Total			241,380.00
17	FAUSTINO GATCHALIAN		LAND	E007-07086	MERVILLE 1979-2002	269,991.68	157,954.80 157,954.80
				Sub Total			315,909.60
				E013-00450	STO.NIÑO 1979-2002	6,114.80	2,642.28 2,642.28
				Sub Total			5,284.56
				E013-00597	STO.NIÑO 1979-2001	3,176.12	1,866.48 1,866.48
				Sub Total			3,732.96
18	PILAR DEV. CORP.			E001-26117	2001-2002	3,421.88	5,346.64 5,346.64
				Sub Total			10,693.28
				E001-01955	1996-2002	5,143.04	4,311.20 4,311.20
				Sub Total			8,622.40
	TCT-485741	228	LAND	E001-02352	1982-2002	68,611.96	27,773.28 27,773.28
				Sub Total			55,546.56
		228	LAND	E001-02372	1979-2002	14,264.48	6,415.92 6,415.92
				Sub Total			12,831.84
	TCT -464224	586	LAND	E001-02612	1979-2002	36,661.68	16,489.80 16,489.80
				Sub Total			32,979.60
	TCT -327524	312	LAND / RES.	E001-09682	1979-2002	21,424.96	9,557.16 9,557.16
				Sub Total			19,114.32

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

A FLEET of buses bearing the name of bus driver Conrad Johnson, the last person gunned down by a sniper in a three-week rampage of shootings in seven jurisdictions, motorcades on the Beltway to Johnson's funeral in Washington, DC, Oct. 26.
AFP

Material witness in sniper case held; residents return outdoors

WASHINGTON—The FBI on Saturday tracked down the co-owner of the car in which two sniper suspects were arrested, while people in and around Washington enjoyed their first weekend free of fear since the random killings began nearly a month ago.

Nathaniel Osbourne was arrested in the early hours of Saturday in Flint, Michigan, and was being held as a material witness in the case, FBI spokesperson Debbie Weierman said. He is believed to have helped the suspects purchase the New Jersey-registered Chevrolet Caprice.

"Mr. Osbourne is not a subject of the investigation but we believe he can provide law enforcement officials with valuable information," she said.

As authorities gathered evidence against suspects John Allen Muhammad and his companion, John Lee Malvo, competition emerged over where they should be tried first. Montgomery County, Maryland, State Attorney Douglas Gansler staked his claim first, noting that six of the 10 killings occurred in that jurisdiction.

"The sentiment by most people is that Montgomery County was disproportionately affected in this case," he told MSNBC. "We're the best positioned to seek and get the appropriate punishment."

Maryland late on Friday was the first to charge Muhammad, a 41-year-old Gulf War veteran, and Malvo, 17, with six counts of first-degree murder in the sniper case.

Gansler has said he is confident the case is eligible for the death penalty in Maryland.

Officials from Virginia, where three people died, also said the death penalty was warranted in the shooting rampage that also wounded three in the region.

Seven jurisdictions around Washington—two Maryland counties, four Virginia counties and the District of Columbia—could try the case, in addition to possible federal charges.

Both suspects were arrested on Thursday after one of the biggest manhunts in US history. Authorities have confirmed that a gun found in the suspects' car matched bullets used in most of the shootings.

As the sniper case moved toward the courtroom, children returned to the outdoor football and soccer fields after weeks of virtual confinement in schools and homes. People ran errands and enjoyed the emerging autumn colors without fear for the first time since Oct. 2, when the shooting spree began.

"There was a flood of emotions on the field and in the stands today," said Tom Robinson Jr. of the football game between John F. Kennedy and Albert Einstein high schools, played in Silver Spring, Maryland, the town at the center of the sniper's rampage.

"We're beginning to look back and consider the impact of what happened, and we're so thankful to God this helpless feeling of terror has been lifted from the community."

Also in Silver Spring, Conrad Johnson, the bus driver who became the sniper's 13th and final victim on Tuesday, was honored on Saturday afternoon with a bus convoy by fellow drivers. He was to be buried later in the day.

Reuters

Suicide bomber near Jewish settlement kills 3 people

JERUSALEM—A suicide bomber detonated his explosives Sunday at a gas station next to the entrance of a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, causing a large number of casualties, Israeli officials said.

"A suicide bomber came and there were many soldiers . . . and he blew himself up," Ron Nachman, mayor of the settlement of Ariel, told Israel Radio.

Witnesses said the bomber blew himself up after soldiers who were eating at a food stand at a petrol station at the entrance of the settlement spotted him.

A volunteer Israeli rescue service, ZAKA, said three people were killed and about 30 wounded in the blast just outside the Ariel settlement, according to Shlomo Bloch, a spokesperson for the group.

The Israeli military said in an initial report that at least 16 people were injured, but it could not confirm any deaths.

Rami Sonnenfeld, a police commander at the scene, said the bomber arrived at the gas station, and was spotted by soldiers.

"They called on him and approached him," Sonnenfeld told Israeli Radio. "As they were trying to overpower him, the terrorist blew up and a number of people were injured."

Ariel is one of the largest settlements in the West Bank, located to the north of Jerusalem.

"Once again, the vicious agenda of Palestinian terrorists has taken its toll," said David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office. "Like spectators, the Palestinian Authority stands by and does nothing while Palestinian terrorists continue to wage a campaign of terror against Israeli civilians."

The Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, has condemned bombings of Israeli civilians and says its security forces are now unable to act against Palestinian militant groups because Israeli troops have taken over most cities in the West Bank.

Palestinian militants have targeted Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip throughout the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Last Monday, two teenage suicide bombers slammed an explosives-laden car into an Israeli bus in northern Israel, killing 14 people.

Reuters

Teener goes on shooting spree in Oklahama; 2 die

OKLAHOMA CITY—A teenager apparently angered by a neighbor went on a shooting spree Saturday in eastern Oklahoma that left two people dead and at least six injured, authorities said.

The rampage took place over a 48-km area in a string of small communities, authorities said. They said Daniel H. Fears was taken into custody after crashing his pickup truck near a police road block.

There was no immediate word on the conditions of the wounded. Fears, 18, was being held late Saturday at the Sequoyah County jail.

The violence began about 5 p.m. in Sallisaw after the teen was confronted by a neighbor for reckless driving, said Kym Koch, spokesperson for the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation.

"A man got onto him for driving erratically because he said he almost hit some kids," Koch told The Daily Oklahoman.

Koch said the teen, a high school senior, went into his house and another neighbor went to his door to talk to him. Koch said the woman knocked but got no answer.

"She was walking away when the suspect came out with a shotgun and shot the man who was getting onto him across the street," Koch said.

The man survived, but the teen then fatally shot the woman and wounded her husband, Koch said, before getting into his pickup and driving east.

During the rampage, the teen allegedly wounded a salesman and killed a customer at a car dealership, and shot two people at a store, authorities said.

AP

Jiang may start to give up powers next month

BEIJING—After months of conflicting rumors, signs are increasing daily that China's President Jiang Zemin will take steps to relinquish power as scheduled at a major Communist Party meeting next month, experts say.

Reshuffles within the party elite last week have left a number of officials seemingly lined up for top leadership posts, indicating that some space is about to open up at the party's highest levels, they argue.

But at the same time, most of those seemingly tipped for promotion are proteges of Jiang, indicating that the outgoing leader plans to wield tremendous political influence even after his retirement.

Intensive and secretive negotiations are expected to continue all the way up to the start of the 16th Communist Party Congress on Nov. 8, at which Jiang is tipped to step down as party general secretary in favor of Vice President Hu Jintao.

Hu, at the vanguard of a younger generation of leaders, is then tipped to take over the presidency from Jiang next spring.

"Over the past two months things have been increasingly pointing to Jiang Zemin stepping down," said Joseph Cheng, a leading political scientist at City University of Hong Kong.

The apparent ascendency of Jiang's followers seems to show this, he added.

"If he (plans to) step down this will lend support to his proteges getting named to new posts . . . there will be less resistance to his people getting appointed to new jobs," Cheng said.

The first of the Jiang allies to get their transfer papers were Shanghai party boss Huang Ju and Beijing party head Jia Qinglin, who are to give up their current posts and take up as-yet unspecified central leadership jobs, it was announced Tuesday.

AFP

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
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Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

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Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

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Farmers protest new law making it crime to keep, develop seeds

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A multi-sectoral alliance of farmers associations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society have banded to oppose the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Act, a law that prohibits farmers from keeping, exchanging and selling seeds.

In a rare show of unity from advocates of different sides of the political spectrum, the Bohol Network for Farmers' Rights (BNFR) composed of 31 groups came out with the Bohol Declaration in Tagbilaran Oct. 24.

The BNFR is up in arms against Republic Act 9168 that criminalizes the farmers' traditional right to save, exchange and sell seeds.

It accused RA 9168 of allowing plant breeders to apply for protection and exclusive rights over new varieties they claim to develop or discover.

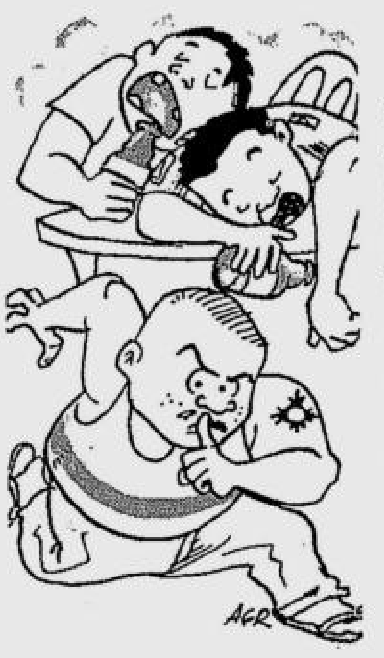
"The law makes it a crime to save, exchange and sell seeds of protected varieties without authorization from breeders who claim to exclusive rights over these varieties," BNFR added.

The declaration alleged that the law was deliberated upon and passed by Congress without holding consultations with farmers' groups, especially small farmers who will be directly and severely affected by the law.

BNFR said RA 9168 infringes on the traditional rights of farmers to save, exchange and sell seeds, the rights of a system of open exchange and access of seeds among farmers.

RA 9168 does not recognize farmers as breeders and does not provide protection to farmer-developed varieties. The provisions of the law are such that only corporations and seed companies will have the capacity and resources to acquire plant variety protection, BNFR added.

Night out with jail guard allows inmate to escape



BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A prisoner at the provincial jail here escaped while he, a fellow inmate and their jail escort were having a drinking spree at a beer joint in Solano town Tuesday night.

Benzon Cadiente, acting jail warden, said Joseph Banatlao, 25, who is facing robbery and car theft charges before the regional trial court here, escaped while the three were inside the "K" Sarap videoke bar in Solano, some 4 km from here.

A source at the provincial jail said it is "normal" for guards to go out with inmates in local nightspots. They said guards usually bring out detainees who have just received money from visiting relatives.

"*Halos gabi-gabi yan. Dinadala nila sa mga* beerhouse *yung mga* inmate *na alam nilang may pera* (It's almost on a nightly basis. They bring inmates, who they know have money, to local beer joints)," the source said.

Cadiente, however, denied the source's claims.

"I don't think so. I think this is the only time that this has happened," he said.

Quoting an investigation report, Cadiente said Banatlao was allowed by jail officials to go out with another inmate, Romeo Gacayan, supposedly to "buy toiletries and other personal needs" at around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. The prisoners were accompanied by jail guard Arturo Cutaran.

Cadiente said Banatlao asked permission from Cutaran to go to the toilet, but he did not return and slipped using the joint's backdoor.

The report said Banatlao escaped while Cutaran and Gacayan were busy singing using the establishment's videoke machine.

Cadiente said jail guards on duty would have to explain why the inmates were allowed to get out of the provincial jail's premises with an escort when this was done only in cases of emergency.

He said they would also investigate why jail guards had been lax on Banatlao, who already bolted jail in May 1998 but was recaptured in January 2001.

Despite the previous escapes, Cadiente said they allowed Cutaran to go on duty on Wednesday because he was still awaiting the outcome of the investigation. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Talks of Mikey running for gov rocking Lakas boat

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A campaign by 17 of 21 Pampanga mayors to convince Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo to run for governor in 2004 has stirred fears of a breakup of the administration Lakas-NUCD in President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province.

Arroyo on Monday confirmed the ongoing campaign of local officials to convince him to run for governor. He said most of the mayors "had asked me to try my luck in the gubernatorial race."

"I told them the election is many months away. Let's just work first," he said.

Gov. Manuel Lapid, Lakas-NUCD provincial chair, remained firm in his decision to field his son Mark, 24, in the race.

"It's my son (who's going to be the official bet). There's no more turning back," Lapid told the INQUIRER by phone on Wednesday.

He claimed that his son is prepared for the job.

"He makes good decisions. He's cool headed and is close to the masses," Lapid said.

Lakas insiders said Arroyo's entry in the race would divide and weaken the party.

The likely scenario, they said, was that Lapid would bolt the party to join his former party mates at the Nationalist People's Coalition.

But Lapid dismissed these scenarios.

Arroyo said he did not think his candidacy for governor would break up the party. He said he "solidified the province's political leaders" when he ran and won as vice governor in 2001.

He said he is more inclined to run as representative of Pampanga's second congressional district in 2004.

Like in 2001, he said he would only have a change of mind after consulting with local leaders, his wife Angela, his parents and Lapid, his "political godfather."

Other possible candidates for the gubernatorial post are Rep. Oscar Rodriguez (third district), Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc (fourth district) and Board Member Joseller Guiao.

Arroyo described them as "credible candidates."

Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales, Pampanga Mayors' League president, denied that he was leading the campaign to convince Arroyo to run for governor.

"It is Governor Lapid who will choose the bets. We will not allow disunity in our ranks," Morales said.

The President's son had entered show business before plunging into politics, just like his political "godfather," Lapid.

Mikey made a movie recently that was entered into a film festival as an entry.

But unlike Lapid, Mikey's show biz career was shortlived and forgettable, prompting some critics to say that he used show biz as a tool for politics. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MIKEY ARROYO

3 Cafgus wounded in attack on cell site

LEGAZPI CITY—Three members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were wounded while defending a Smart cell site in Barangay Travesia, Guinobatan, Albay against an attack by more than 20 heavily armed New People's Army rebels late Saturday.

Senior Supt. Pedro Tango, Albay provincial police director, identified the wounded militiamen as Romeo Ragodon, Edgar Sario and Virgel Loyola.

The three are members of an eight-man team from the 22nd Infantry Battalion led by T/Sgt. Florante Nieva, that was deployed to reinforce two security guards of in the cell site.

The militiamen said the rebels were armed with M-203, M16 and M14 Armalite rifles and M-60 machine guns.

Ragodon was the first to notice the presence of the armed men trying to enter the cell site's gate. He was about to check and verify the men's identities when they fired at him.

The Cafgu men and the guards exchanged fire with the rebels for about 20 minutes and were able to repulse the raiders who fled to the mountainous barangay of Tumpa, Camalig town.

While the gunfight was ongoing, a roadblock was put up by another group of NPA rebels in Barangay Binogsacan in Guinobatan town, a few kilometers from the cell site.

Motorists said the armed men at the roadblock seized car keys.

Tango was able to avoid the roadblock and proceeded to Ligao City where he sought reinforcement.

Policemen from Guinobatan used the same route taken by Tango.

"They (the rebels) paralyzed transportation which is their usual tactic to delay possible reinforcements," said Tango.

The attack stalled traffic going to and coming from Metro Manila.

Investigators said previous to the attack, a man who acted insane was seen near the cell site appearing to be scouting the area. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Project for GMA grandma

FUNDS are being raised to transform a public plaza in Floridablanca, Pampanga into a national park to be named after Romana-Pangan Macapagal, President Macapal's grandmother.

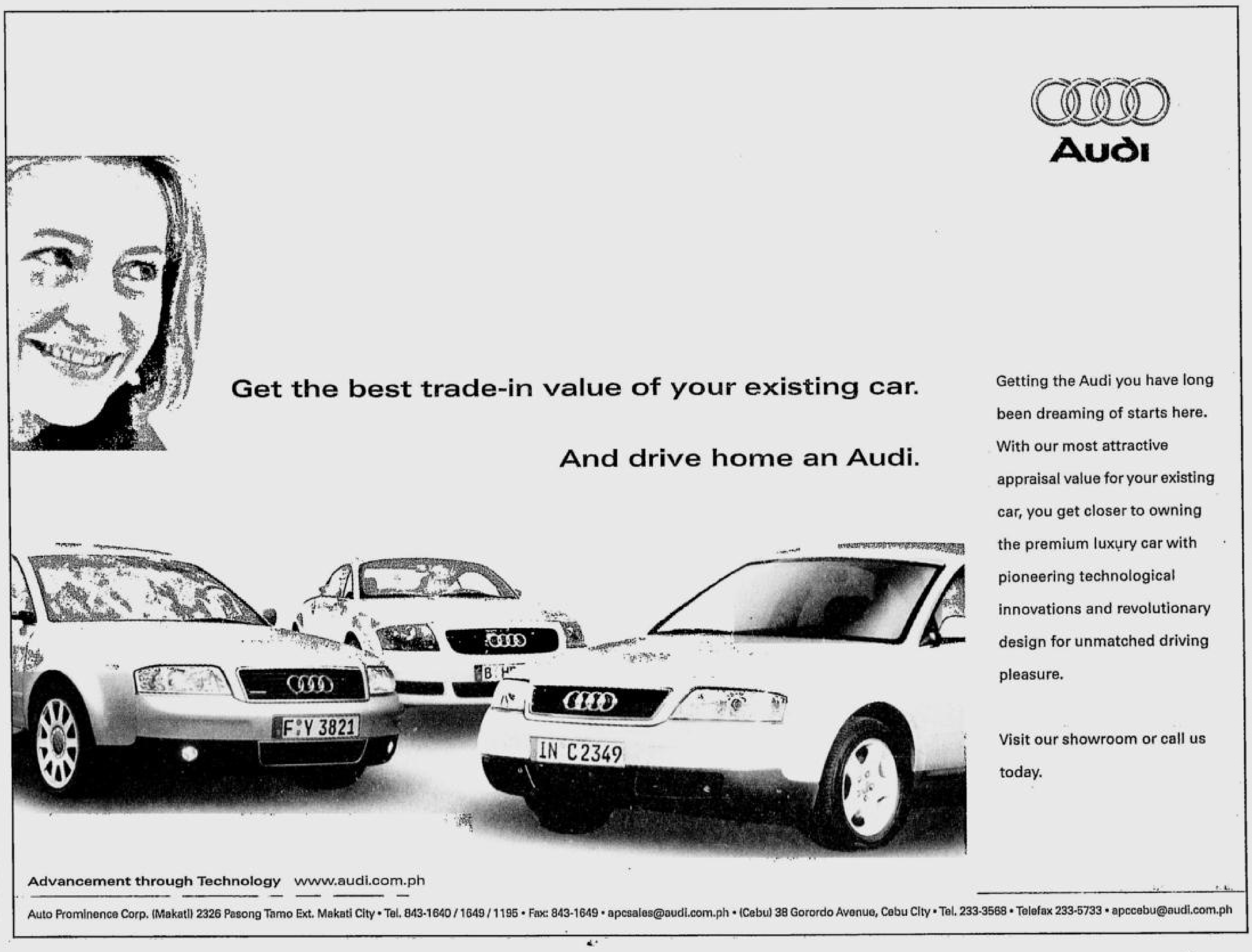
The Elysian Foundation of Pampanga, Inc., which is raising the funds, said in a statement that there was encouraging response to the appeal for people to give money for the project.

The foundation said Antonio Montemayor, Bureau of Internal Revenue regional director, and Immigration Chief Andrea Domingo were the latest to pledge to give money to the foundation.

The statement quoted Montemayor as saying he would not only give a "substantial" amount from his own pockets, but would also help collect money from other possible contributors.

The project, said foundation president Danny Dimalanta, needs at least P12 million.

Ms Pangan-Macapagal is being honored for producing two presidents—the late Diosdado Macapagal and his daughter, Gloria Macapagal.



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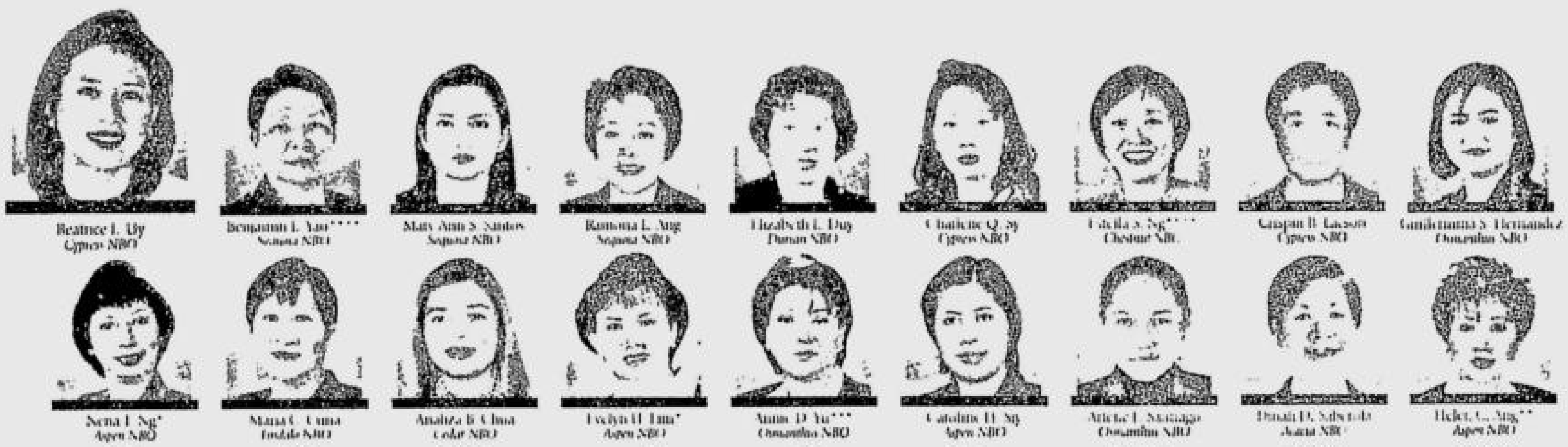

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Apec leaders crack down on terrorism

From page A1

early Saturday, a spate of bomb attacks in the Philippines and the blast at a Bali nightclub two weeks ago which killed 190 people, mostly foreigners.

The 21-member Apec started in 1989 as a trade organization pressing for free market economics, but has been overshadowed in recent years by global political crises. The mission of this year's conference is to tackle the rising tide of global terrorism without impeding the free movement of goods and people deemed vital to economic development.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, standing in for President Vladimir Putin, who stayed at home to oversee the hostage drama, called on Apec to pull the plug on international terrorist financing.

"The daring act in Moscow follows the same line of events that struck on Sept. 11 in New York, as well as the Philippines and Indonesia," he said.

"This is a danger to our future, the future of our civilization," Kasyanov said in a speech at this Mexican resort, which is protected by 3,000 police and troops and prowling warships offshore.

US President George W. Bush met Indonesia's President Megawati Sukarnoputri and told her he would consider increased US aid to help battle militants tied to global terrorism.

He said that the Bali blast "showed the reach" of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, a US official said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard offered Indonesia $10 million in anti-terror aid, after earlier calling on Jakarta to keep up the pace of its newly launched crackdown on Islamic radicals.

Howard, who met Megawati for the first time since scores of Australians were among those killed in the Bali bombing, said the funds would be used to spur anti-terrorist surveillance and security at airports and customs services.

"I put very strongly to President Megawati the need for the strongest possible measures to be taken against terrorism in Indonesia," Howard said at a news conference.

"I offered Australia's help in whatever ways were appropriate and possible. I have no doubt that a similar message will be conveyed to President Megawati at this meeting," he said.

Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi joined other leaders in agreeing to a security plan drawn up by the United States.

Known as the Secure Trade in the Apec region (STAR) initiative, it aimed to enhance security while increasing trade, the White House said.

Under the plan, Apec economies will:

- Introduce new baggage screening procedures and equipment in all Apec-member airports by 2005.
- Reinforce flight deck doors of passenger aircraft by April 2003.
- Identify and examine high-risk sea containers, providing advance electronic information to customs, port and shipping officials.
- Implement by 2005 common standards for electronics customs reporting.
- Promote ship and port security plans by July 2004.
- Install automatic identification systems on certain ships by 2004.

In a crucial mini-summit, Bush, Koizumi and South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung demanded that North Korea immediately halt its quest for nuclear weapons.

"North Korea's relations with the international community now rest on North Korea's prompt and visible actions to dismantle its program to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons," they said in a statement.

The allies called on the unpredictable Stalinist state led by Kim Jong-Il to dismantle its recently revealed enriched uranium program in a "prompt and verifiable manner" but held out no specific sanctions should it fail to do so.

Senior US officials have refused to rule out the eventual use of economic or other sanctions. Japan and South Korea, both pursuing dialogue with North Korea, want to press Pyongyang with words, not action.

On the horizon lies the threat of a US war with Iraq to force President Saddam Hussein to throw down suspected weapons of mass destruction.

"If the UN won't act, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him," Bush vowed at a meeting with Mexican President Vicente Fox.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters it was time for the United Nations to wrap up the debate on a tough, US-drafted resolution aimed at disarming Saddam and proceed to a vote.

Russia and France oppose a US-authored draft resolution because they say it provides an automatic trigger for attack in case of non-compliance; China has not backed the measure; Mexico, a current Security Council member, has been cool to the initiative.

Business leaders warned Apec not to wreck the economy in their fight to stamp out terrorism.

"We must work together to ensure security against terrorism. We need, however, to ensure that in pursuing common security, we do not sacrifice the economic openness which is the basis of our economic prosperity," said a statement issued by the Apec Business Advisory Council. *AFP and Reuters*

Gloria slams protectionism of the rich

From page A1

ignorance," she said.

Ms Macapagal was featured with the three female heads of government at the Apec CEO summit being held on the sidelines of the Apec meetings here.

The President shared the platform with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark in a forum titled "A Conversation with the Leaders."

"My concern is that the terrorists have shifted our attention away from how to work to make the global economy thrive," the President said in a much-applauded speech before the regional business executives.

"We have shifted our effort to secure ourselves and our countries," she said in her speech which reflected some of the frustration expressed by business participants that too much emphasis on terrorism had prevented a more focused discussion of economic issues.

Home run

Philippine officials said they were overwhelmed by congratulatory comments after Ms Macapagal's performance which one Nike executive called a "home run," alluding to the World Series.

Ms Macapagal, who arrived here late Friday for yesterday's opening of the two-day Apec summit of leaders, spent much of the day meeting business leaders—the US and Asean Business Council and the US Chamber of Commerce—and in bilateral meetings with US President George W. Bush and Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

In the first of the Leaders' Retreats devoted to terrorism yesterday, she was one of three leaders designated as resource persons and assigned to address the Forum of 21.

The three female leaders of Apec attempted to breach the development divide in the 13-year-old forum, urging the more developed members to help lift up their weaker partners.

Ms Macapagal said that if governments approached economic problems the way they had approached the fight against terrorism, the global economy would pull through.

If this coalition building could work well to eradicate terrorism, it could work equally well to ensure economic security, she suggested.

Ms Macapagal said a start could be made with the World Trade Organization (WTO), which needed to be re-engineered to assure a level playing field.

"The rules of trading are now stacked in favor of developed countries which preach liberalization but practice protection against developing countries on the other," she said.

She said Apec should exercise its leadership in the WTO so that the current Doha Development Round of multilateral trade talks would end successfully.

The Philippines and New Zealand belong to the Cairns group of agricultural producers that is seeking an end to farming subsidies as the key to reforming world agricultural trade.

Ms Macapagal said Apec's task would be to reinforce the WTO to make sure that the "Doha round is truly what it is billed—as a development round."

"One way to influence the WTO is to come up with an early harvest of results that would benefit the biggest number of people in the world," she said.

New funding

She also asked developed countries to come up with the new funding promised at the Monterrey Development Summit early this year to fight poverty.

"We have yet to see these resources come to the developing countries in a meaningful way," Ms Macapagal said.

Clark agreed that if the developed economies of Apec were to cling to protectionism, the organization's ability to lead would be affected.

She said that while New Zealand, a developed country, recognized the importance of continuing economic transformation in raising living standards, "we also know the importance of the rising tide of growth lifting all boats in a society."

"We cannot build a secure world around small islands of prosperity," Clark said.

But she observed that in its twin goals of freeing up trade and providing development, Apec had achieved a bit of balance in both.

The New Zealand prime minister claimed to see a much wider awareness among Apec members and business constituencies that economic progress and its fruits were more widely shared.

But she did not agree that the forum had been too focused on terrorism at the expense of economic issues.

"Economies and trade function in a context of security for economies to prosper and trade to flourish. Security as a precondition in turn is enhanced when there is development, social cohesion and tolerance at both international and international levels," Clark said.

Painful process

Megawati, whose less than purposeful response to the bombings in Bali that killed 190 people had marked her for pressure in the forum, started by explaining the painful process of change in her country.

Indonesia is undergoing a transition to democratic institutions after the fall of the Suharto dictatorship in 1998.

Megawati said the country was working through a process of considerable change attended by many problems. It has managed to make some progress, "though not as much as we would have wanted."

She cited the rebuilding of some vital institutions, the putting up of the foundations for economic restoration like a stable exchange rate and low inflation, and the promotion of a micro-finance system to stimulate small and medium enterprises, all of which, according to her, operated in an evolving democratic environment.

And then Bali happened "and suddenly everything becomes blurred again," she said.

Megawati extended her sympathy to the families of those who died in Bali before making an appeal to some governments to reconsider their instructions to their citizens not to travel to Bali.

"Our tourism industry, one of the important pillars of economic restoration and on which millions of Indonesians depend, has received a heavy blow," she said.

She said the travel ban would indirectly hurt small businesses which are the prime victims of terrorism, as well as Indonesia's attempts to create jobs and fight poverty.

"If this ban continues, it will only distance us from Apec's goals of increasing the prosperity of people in the region and encourage terrorists to expand their activities," she said.

"Clearly we must fight terrorism wherever, however and by whoever, but in so doing we should not apply the policy that ending it would upset the life of our people and harm their welfare," she said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal walks to a working breakfast in Los Cabos. AFP

Los Cabos name flap: Mega-what?

From page A1

luxury Mexican resort by a master of ceremonies, who pronounced her name by stressing every letter as it was spelled in official papers—Soekarnoputri—Indonesia's president was not amused.

"I would like to give my name correctly," she told business leaders on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit. "It is not Megawati Soay-karnoputri, but Suuu-karnoputri," stressed the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno. "That's my name."

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose country had been under Spanish colonial rule like Mexico, cleared the air later by quipping in flawless Spanish: "It's much easier to pronounce my name in Spanish." *Reuters*

More medals from Busan, thanks to RP 'earth angels'

From page A1

Trinidad said the victory had been won as much with talent and voice quality, as with determination and discipline.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos led the city government staff in welcoming the children, who arrived with Trinidad and pianist Ruth Quiñones at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday.

Incoming passengers were delighted by an impromptu mini-performance of three numbers by the homecoming champs, as requested by the Naia staff.

Back in Busan, the children ran away with the silver in the Children's Choirs category with their renditions of "O Magnum Mysterium," "Bungisngis," "Aglepta" and "Ambo Hato." They competed with more than 30 groups.

Then they outdid more than 20 senior competitors for the bronze in Contemporary Music (an open category where they were the only junior choir), with "Hallelujah Amen," "Larong Pambata," "Arimaoanga" and "Ave Maria."

"I was nervous at first," said 11-year-old Charlene Ramos, "but the judges were smiling while we were singing, so I knew (we were doing) okay."

Before their departure, the kids practiced daily, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in one of the buildings within the City Hall compound. The city government has a P500,000 annual budget for the choir, whose members each receives a P500 monthly stipend.

Charlene said her allowance went to daily school expenses. She flew to Busan with her 8-year-old sister Mikee, the youngest choir member. They both used to be with the Manila Children's Choir.

Most of the other children in MCC didn't have previous musical training.

The MCC was Abalos' brainchild, inspired by the Vienna Boys Choir.

"I thought, if the Austrians could do it, we Filipinos could do it, too," he said. He started putting a group together back when he was still city councilor, but succeeded only when he became mayor in 1998.

Abalos acknowledged he had a lot of help from Trinidad, a homegrown talent who had been with the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Philippine Chamber Choir, Singers Harmonics and the Ateneo Chamber Singers.

They held auditions and workshops, initially with 167 children, a number that was gradually trimmed down to 33, "on the basis of both ability and dedication," Trinidad said.

The MCC is a member of MADZ, a network of choirs handled by alumni of the Madrigals. The children's first album, "A Symphony of Earth Angels," was launched in South Korea during the choir olympics.

Understandably, the adults behind the kids are pleased with themselves.

"I never thought we could go this far," said Trinidad.

Abalos was more exuberant. "It took years to train them," he said, "but they've been well worth all the effort. Now they're world-class."

Boy's fits sparked Moscow assault

From page A1

But as the second act got underway, a "suicide squad" of some 50 Chechen guerrillas stormed the building just a few kilometers from the Kremlin, starting the most dramatic hostage crisis in modern Russian history.

But on the third night of captivity, with tensions inside the theater rising as conditions became ever more squalid, one young boy in a rear seat snapped, said Chernyak.

He threw a bottle at the guerrillas and ran down the aisle.

"He dashed toward the exit, shouting: 'Mummy, I don't know what to do.' They opened fire on him, but missed and hit seated people instead," she told Russian television from her hospital bed late on Saturday.

"They hit a guy in the eye. There was a lot of blood, bubbling blood. And a girl was hit in the side. Then they told us: 'Don't worry. Everything's all right.'"

Hearing the gunfire, commanders of hundreds of elite storm troopers who had surrounded the theater believed the guerrillas had acted on a threat to start shooting hostages if demands for a Russian troop withdrawal from Chechnya were ignored.

Fearing the guerrillas would detonate large quantities of explosives rigged inside the building, the security forces pumped large quantities of gas into the theater, knocking out the guerrillas before sending in special forces squads.

Death toll

In the ensuing mayhem most of the guerrillas, including their commander Movsar Barayev, were killed. A handful were taken into custody for interrogation.

Initial reports suggested that miraculously only 10 hostages had died, but the death toll climbed relentlessly. On Sunday, Russia's three main news agencies quoted Health Ministry officials as saying that 118 people had died. More than 700 hostages were thought to have been freed.

Two foreigners, a Dutch national and a 13-year-old Kazakh girl, were among the dead hostages, embassy sources in Moscow said.

Fifty hostage-takers have also been killed, Russian officials said Saturday.

It was not clear how the hostages died but many appeared to have succumbed to the gas used to neutralize the guerrillas. *(See related story.)*

At least 546 of the hostages freed Saturday have been hospitalized, many in serious condition from an unidentified gas special forces released to disable the Chechen gunmen, a Russian news report said.

During a check of Moscow hospitals, the web news service gazeta.ru said its reporters found only "four or five" of the injured had received bullet wounds.

It said 349 ex-hostages were admitted to hospital No. 13, and 104 others to the veterans hospital No. 1. Many were suffering from gas poisoning and were in a state of shock.

Nine of the hospitalized former captives had died from cardiac arrest or suffocation, gazeta.ru said.

Brutal beatings

No information has been released on the exact causes of the captives' deaths, except for two who were shot by the Chechen rebels before the assault by security forces.

Chernyak said that throughout the siege the guerrillas kept threatening hostages with imminent death, telling them the building was rigged with explosives and nobody would escape.

Before the raid early on Saturday a man stumbled in, saying he had managed to get past the security cordon outside the theater and that he was looking for his son who was among the hostages.

"They did not find the boy. So they started to beat him up in a terrifying manner," Chernyak said.

"Before that in the same way they beat up a guy who had left the toilet—the orchestra pit—the wrong way, just climbed out of it," she said. "He was beaten, kicked, it was awful."

The presence of 18 female suicide fighters with explosives strapped to their waists among the hundreds of frightened theater-goers added to the atmosphere of fear and violence, Chernyak said.

"These Chechen girls, they were so happy that finally they were about to be free, that finally they were about to blow themselves up," Chernyak said.

She said the women—each carrying up to 2 kilos of explosives stuffed with ball-bearings and nails—repeatedly told terrified hostages they were looking forward to dying and taking others with them.

"When they heard a noise from outside—some eight hours before the storming—they immediately dispersed among the audience," Chernyak said.

After the siege was over, Russian television showed the women's bloodied black-clad bodies sprawled or slumped in their seats, still attached to their explosive devices.

None of the "black widows," so named by some local media because three of them were married to Chechen field commanders killed by Russian forces in Chechnya, managed to detonate their bombs. *Reuters, with a report from AFP*

4 NPA rebels captured after clash in Aurora

GOVERNMENT troops captured four communist guerrillas after a brief gun battle in Aurora province at the weekend, the military said yesterday.

Soldiers patrolling a village near the town of Dingalan in Aurora province ran into a group of 20 New People's Army rebels, triggering a brief gunbattle, Regional Army spokesperson Maj. Vic Tomas said.

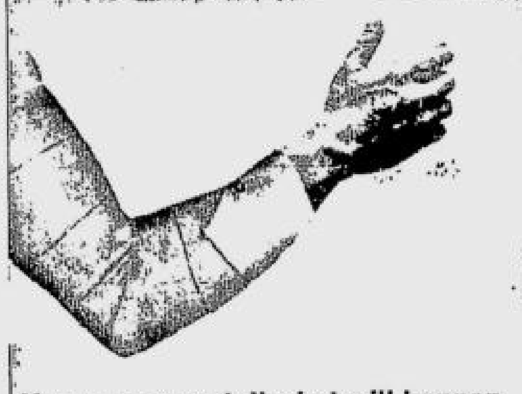
Four of the gunmen were captured but the rest managed to escape. There were no immediate reports of casualties, Tomas said.

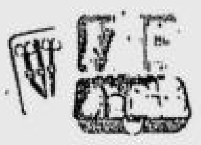
Upon interrogation, the four suspects admitted they belonged to a 28-man NPA cell sent out to kidnap a local businessman.

The NPA is the armed wing of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines.

The US government has included the CPP-NPA on its list of foreign terrorist organizations, which led to the freezing of the rebel group's assets in certain European countries.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said prospects of resuming peace negotiations with the rebels remain dim. Arroyo suspended talks with the rebels after the NPA assassinated several legislators last year. *AFP*





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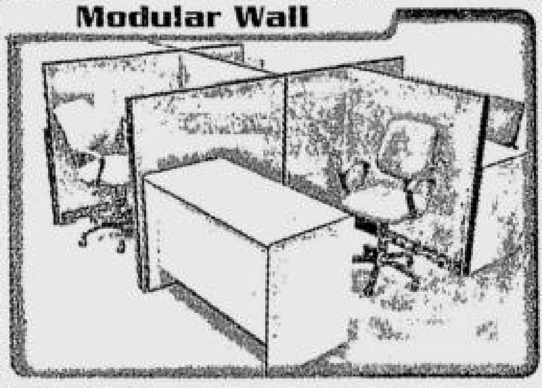

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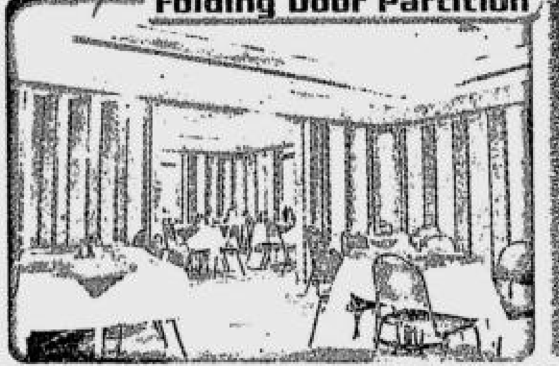

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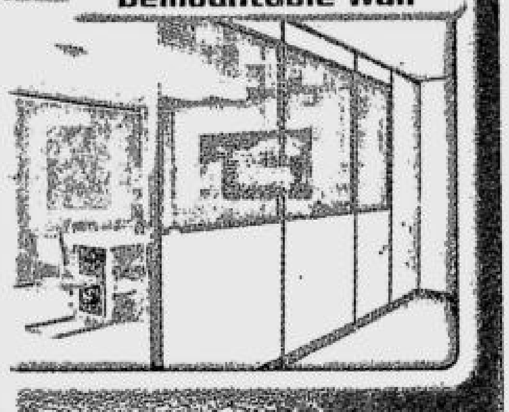

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LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 9:30 a.m. on Star Sports

LPGA State Farm Classic at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN

BASEBALL: Major League Baseball at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on ESPN

SOCCER: Spanish League Highlights at 7 a.m. on Star Sports

VOLPONI (right), with jockey Jose Santos aboard, heads to the finish line ahead of the pack in the Breeders' Cup Classic race.
AFP

BREEDERS' CUP

Longest shot wins Classic

Asistio horse finishes 5th in $1-M Sprint

By Richard Rosenblat
AP Racing Writer

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois—Volponi stunned the racing world with one of the biggest upsets in Breeders' Cup history, running away from Medaglia d'Oro to win the $4 million Classic.

Sent off Saturday as the longest shot (43-1) in the star-studded field of 12, the unheralded Volponi found room along the rail and blew past the fading Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner War Emblem and beat Medaglia d'Oro by 6½ lengths.

Discarded by the Arlington Park crowd of 46,118 at the betting window, Volponi gave 77-year-old Hall of Fame trainer P.G. Johnson the biggest win of his career.

"He's a nice horse," Johnson said. "That makes it easy."

Ridden by Jose Santos, the 4-year-old son of Cryptoclearance failed to win in four starts prior to the Classic, the last and most heralded of eight races at the World Thoroughbred Championships.

"I really believed in this horse," Santos said. "We came to win and we did it."

War Emblem, in the final race of his career, finished eighth. The frisky black colt now heads for Japan where he will stand at stud after a 55-week campaign that lifted him from obscurity to nearly becoming a Triple Crown winner.

Volponi returned $89, $26.80 and $12.40. Medaglia d'Oro, ridden by Jerry Bailey and trained by Bobby Frankel, paid $4.60 and $3.60 as the 5-2 favorite. Milwaukee Brew, also trained by Frankel, was third and returned $9.06. Volponi earned $2,080,000 for the win, boosting his career total $2,748,976. Time for the 1¼ miles was 2:01.39.

Evening Attire, coming off a victory in the Jockey Club Gold Cup, was fourth, followed by Macho Uno, Dollar Bill, Hawk Wing, War Emblem, Harlan's Holiday, Came Home, E Dubai and Perfect Drift.

The surprise win left Horse of the Year honors up for grabs. War Emblem closed out his career with three losses in his last four races, while Medaglia d'Oro fell short after impressive wins in the Jim Dandy and Travers Stakes.

Volponi, named after a turf writer according to Johnson, was the second biggest long shot to win the Classic. Arcangues won in 1993 at Santa Anita and paid $133.60.

This wasn't Johnson's first upset. He trained Quiet Little Table to a surprise victory over Forego in the 1977 Suburban Handicap.

NY-based writer

Johnson had two Breeders' Cup starters in 1990; Adjudicating finished fourth in the Sprint and Colchis Island was sixth in the Turf. Johnson's daughter, Karen, is a New York-based writer for the Daily Racing Form.

Volponi won for just the third time in eight starts this year, and has seven wins in 22 career starts.

While War Emblem's racing career ended on a cold, cloudy day, the colt's trainer Bob Baffert looks as though he'll have a stable full of Kentucky Derby contenders next year. Vindication went wire-to-wire in the $1 million Juvenile, with Kafwain finishing second and Bull Market fourth.

The Breeders' Cup was tinged with tragedy for a second straight year. Landseer, one of Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien's prized racehorses, shattered a bone in his right front leg in the $1 million Mile and was humanely destroyed.

Long shot Domedriver won the Mile, with the O'Brien-trained favorite Rock of Gibraltar second. The day wasn't a complete loss for O'Brien. His High Chaparral blew past the The Tin Man and held off With Anticipation to win the $2.4 million Turf.

Azeri staked her claim for Horse of the Year honors with a wire-to-wire victory in the $2 million Distaff. The 4-year-old filly, who finished five lengths ahead of Farda Amiga, won her seventh straight and has 10 victories in 11 career starts.

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas went home a winner, too. His favored Orientate caught long shot Thunderello in the stretch and won the $1 million Sprint. The entry of former Philippine Rep. Luis Asistio, Kalookan Queen, finished fifth after faltering in the stretch.

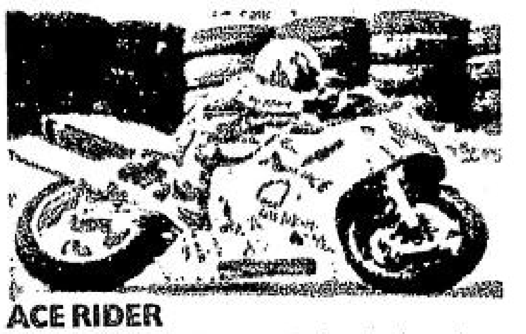
Frankel had his best Breeders' Cup, with his Starine finishing first and Banks Hill second in the $1 million Filly & Mare Turf.

Storm Flag Flying remained unbeaten in four starts with a victory in the $1 million Juvenile Fillies.

Free Wind sparkles

FAVORITE Free Wind caught San Diego Force down the stretch to win the Derby yesterday at San Lazaro.

Also shining were Sunny Puddles who won the Golden Girl Stakes and Hopeful winner Perfect Storm.



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Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering displays his winning form during the final round of the Shell Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas recently. Jao captured the overall title for the sixth time in seven years.

2 Days to NBA Opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that two NBA players have scored 55 points in a single NBA Finals game? These are Rick Barry (1967) and Michael Jordan (1993). This output is second only to Elgin Baylor's 61 points (1962).

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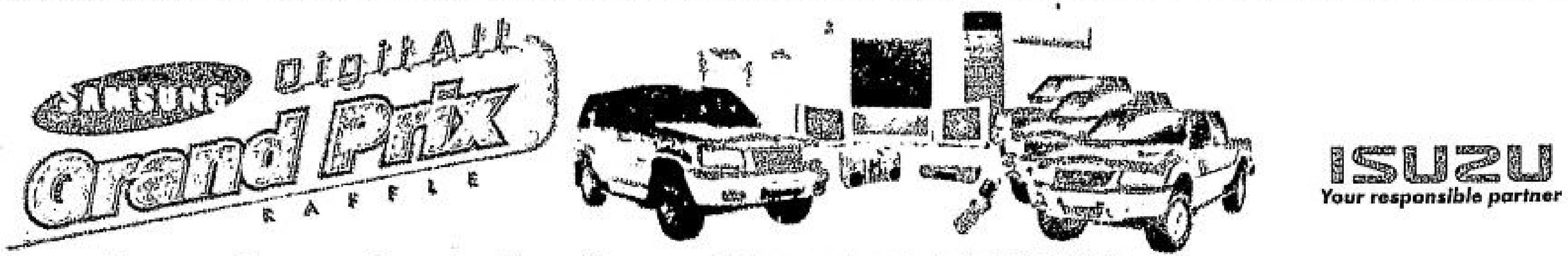

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Manila Golf rules Federation League

By Jong Arcano

THEY were never taken seriously for the simple reason that many believed the men of Forbes Park making up the Manila Golf Club team didn't take the Federation League the same way—seriously.

Forget about that nonsense, Manila Golf Club now has a solid proof to its seriousness—the championship.

With Manoling Chan and Jon Papa playing the executioner's role once more, the Manila Golf Club edged Manila Southwoods, 4.5-3.5, yesterday to finally capture the Fed League crown after a four-year wait.

Chan and Papa, who won for their team a sudden-death playoff against defending champion Forest Hills, rose from the dead to forge a decisive draw in bestball that cemented MGC's 2.5-1.5 result on Saturday.

The duel moved to Makati with MGC needing just a 2-2 draw to settle the issue.

While MGC's backup crew accomplished the job, it was the Chan-Papa duo which provided the needed point with their usual bestball brilliance that added to the shortwork made by high-low partners JP Reyes and Joey Yujuico.

As soon as Chan-Papa got the job done on the 15th with a four-hole lead, the captains of the both squads—Arsenic Laurel (MGC) and Jeric Hechanova (Southwoods)—agreed to recall the two other matches which were still out of the field.

Alex Prieto-OV Espiritu (aggregate) was one up with two to go while Jojo Guingona-Dennis Valdes (scramble) was two down with three to play. Laurel waived both matches to Southwoods with the win already secured.

ALEX Prieto of Manila Golf reacts after birdieing the 17th hole.

ROGER CARPIO

"We went for the win at Southwoods and got it. That I believe is the story of the finals," said Laurel.

The other members of the team are reigning national seniors champ Richie Garcia, Earl Mcarthy, Philip Romualdez, Bobby Paradies, Eric Recto, Giovanni Chuaunsu, Mike Prieto, Joey Stevens, Bolo Tuason, Miguel Celdran, Jr. and Louie Jalandoni.

"A lot of us learned valuable lessons from this year's campaign especially in handling pressure and we're just too happy to finally emerged as champions," said Laurel as he joined teammates and Southwoods over lunch.

The road to the title was not at all easy with Manila Golf surviving a last-ditch stand by Canlubang to earn the second quarterfinals seat in Group III. Facing Alabang next, they pulled off a 4-0 sweep right off en route to a 5-3 win before ousting Forest Hills.

Southwoods posted its second runner-up showing since losing to Riviera in 1999.

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Clark Centennial Cup beach volleyball tournament gets under way Nov. 6

CRACK teams from China, Korea and Japan are coming here next week to take part in the sixth leg of the 2002 Asian Women's Beach Volleyball Championship dubbed the 1st Clark Centennial Cup at scenic Clearwater Resort in Clark, Pampanga.

The tournament starts Wednesday, Nov. 6, with at least seven countries vying for the leg championship and a chunk of the US$10,000 prize money.

The Philippines will be sending two teams to the event organized by the AYN Sporting Management Group of former Philippine Basketball Association coach Chito Narvasa and the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association and backed by Speedo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, Globe, Absolute and the Philippine Star.

Enlisted Armywomen and sisters Michelle and Mariette Carolino banner the Philippine bid in the tournament, which will be played in the breathtaking seaside of the Clearwater Resort in the former United States base.

Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has been invited as guest of honor during the opening ceremonies to be held in the afternoon of Wednesday. The tournament lasts three days.

The Asian Beach Volleyball circuit for men and women started 10 years ago and plays a total of seven legs a season.

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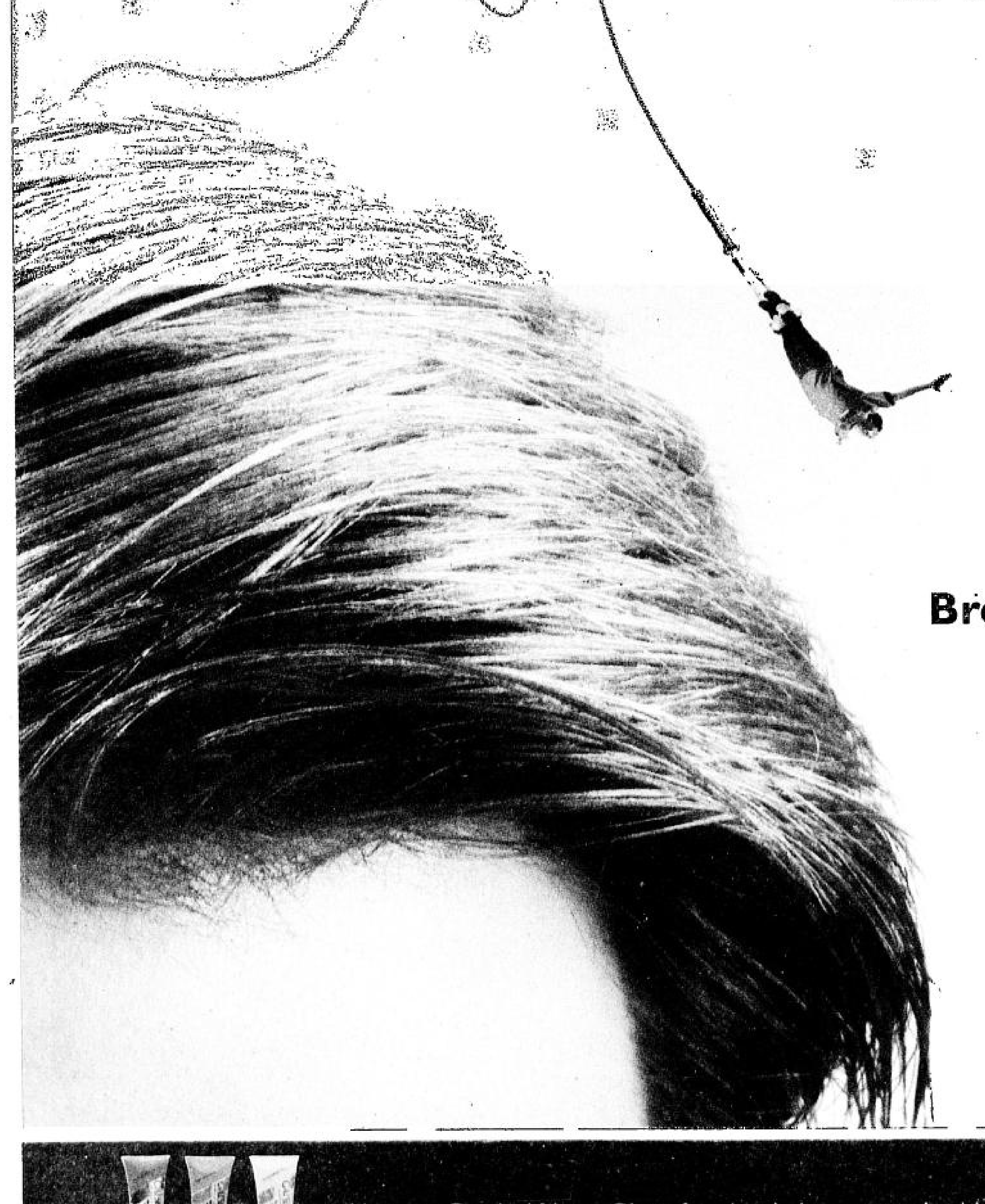

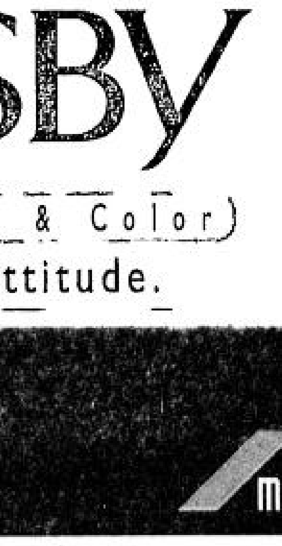

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WORLD SERIES

Angels force Game 7

By Ben Walker
AP Baseball Writer

ANAHEIM, California—Maybe there is some magic in that monkey.

Troy Glaus lined a two-run double after a key misplay by Barry Bonds in the eighth inning, capping an amazing rally that lifted the Anaheim Angels over the San Francisco Giants 6-5 Saturday night and sending the World Series to Game 7.

After he homered again, Bonds had it right in his hands—the ball, the game, the championship. In fact, a platform had already been set up in the Giants' clubhouse for a trophy presentation.

But then it all slipped away as he bobbled and fell on Garret Anderson's single near the left field line, setting up Glaus' go-ahead hit off Robb Nen and capping the Angels' comeback from a late 5-0 deficit.

Scott Spiezio hit a three-run homer in the seventh to make it 5-3 and Darin Erstad's leadoff shot started the rally in the eighth.

Give credit to that Rally Monkey, too. Because when the pesky primate began jumping up and down on the scoreboard, the Angels and the sellout crowd of 44,506 would not be denied.

"There's no room for fear here, or else you're going to go home," Spiezio said. "We battle until the last out of the game. Until they kick us out of the park and say you've got to go home, we're not giving up."

The whole thing left many believing the monkey has mystical powers. And it wasn't surprising—look at what the underdog Angels did to the New York Yankees and Minnesota in the playoffs.

Now, Bonds gets one final chance at the only prize that has ever eluded him. A bad omen for him—of the last seven Game 7s in the Series, the home team has won every time.

"There was confidence, definitely," Giants manager Dusty Baker said. "But the game was not over. That was a heck of a comeback by them."

On Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila), in a fitting wrapup to baseball's first all wild-card World Series, either San Francisco or Anaheim will win its first title. It'll be Livan Hernandez starting for the Giants against rookie John Lackey.

GAME 6 LINESCORES:

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ANAHEIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	X	6	10	1

GLAUS hits a two-run double to give the Angels the lead against the Giants in the eighth inning of Game 6. AFP

P2-M derby set

CAVITE Coliseum will celebrate its 12th Anniversary on Dec. 2, 4 and 6 by staging the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby with Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parañaque as sponsors.

Pit manager Rodel del Rosario said Cavite Coliseum has 150 cockhouses, in-house restaurants, big parking area and 24 air-conditioned hotel rooms.

Part of the derby's proceeds will be donated by host Sen. Ramon Revilla to the Philippine Mental Health. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P2 million while entry fee is P30,000. Derby starts at 7 p.m. For more details, call 0918-5674921.

Roligon meet slated

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit will present the smalltime 4-stag derby on Nov. 4 (Monday) with 60 matches lined up.

Teaming up for this derby are hosts Blandy Tolentino of San Pablo City and popular Llamador Abo Centeno. Entry fee is P10,000 while minimum bet is P11,000. For details, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Eagle Ridge girds for busy sked

THE EAGLE Ridge Golf and Country Club is bracing for a busy schedule in the final two months of the year which will include the hosting of the culminating legs of several major golf tournaments and a horde of corporate events.

There will be a series of small- and big-scale events from the first week of November and the whole of December that will cap the rise of the country's biggest golf complex as a tournament venue more than just a members' haven and a prime destination for golfing tourists.

Bigtime competitions like the grand finals of the popular Nokia Intervillage, the Samsung DigitAll Challenge and the 2002 Sta. Lucia Golf Tour have picked Eagle Ridge as their sites, owing to its advantage in size.

With 63 holes playable, the flagship project of Sta. Lucia Realty and joint venture partner Alsons Land Corp. can host any kind of activity without putting the inconvenience of its huge membership at risk both during weekdays and weekends.

Meanwhile, Eiyu Nino Sasaki topped Class A to lead the winners for the October members monthly medal held at the Faldo course.

Also topping their respective divisions were Romeo Arceo in Class B, Rae Manaloto in Class C, Gerry Ledesma in Class D and Annie Asunto in the ladies division.

Se Ri Pak prevails

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea—On a day when everyone struggled with the chill and winds, Se Ri Pak won the inaugural CJ Nine Bridges Classic over Carin Koch by a runaway six strokes on Sunday. The 25-year-old South Korean star closed with an even-par 72 for a 3-under 213 to beat Koch who finished with a 3-over 219 total. The Swede shot a 1-over 73 on Sunday after rounds of 70 and 76. *AP*

OCTOBER 25, 2002

CHAMP AGAIN

Cassius Casas (center) receives his trophy and symbolic check from organizers as winner of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit second leg at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club course recently. Handing Casas his prizes are, from left, Benjie Ramos of the First Gentleman Foundation, SP Malbarosa of Wack Wack, Federation on Golf Clubs Philippines president Ogie Manalo and Enzo Squillantini, general manager of SHGC.

Rios sets up final vs Srichaphan

STOCKHOLM—Chilean sixth seed Marcelo Rios reached the $650,000 Stockholm Open final on Saturday by defeating Moroccan Hicham Arazi, 6-3, 7-5.

He now faces Thai seventh seed Paradorn Srichaphan, who beat Spaniard Tommy Robredo, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1, earlier in the day to reach his second final of the year.

In Linz, Austria, Alexandra Stevenson beat fifth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, 6-4, 7-6, to advance to the final of the US$585,000 Generali Open against Belgium's Justine Henin. *Reuters*

Is the PBA legalizing the illegal?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ACCORDING to a former official of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Philippine Basketball Association is disregarding the law by conducting an "ending" promo, a version of the numbers game or a form of lottery in which an individual picks the winning combination of the result of a PBA game where handsome prizes are up for grabs.

The PBA is violating the provisions of Republic Act 1169 by holding its own version of the numbers game, said our source, adding that under RA 1169, the law which created the sweepstakes office, the PCSO is the only agency legally allowed to conduct lotteries or the numbers game in the country. Is the PBA now legalizing the illegal? he asked.

While on the subject of the PBA, I gathered that Rep. Monico Puentevella, chair of the House committee on youth and sports development, may invite officials of the PBA, including coaches of the PBA Team that placed fourth in the just-ended Busan Asian Games, to a hearing when Congress resumes next month. Even if that PBA Team that was sent to Busan was privately funded, many stressed that the PBA team became "public property" the moment it represented the Philippines in the Asian Games. The House committee had earlier invited officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to a hearing after the Philippine Youth Team finished a dismal fourth in this year's Southeast Asian Junior Championship in Kuala Lumpur. Because public funds were involved in these two tournaments, a Congressional hearing is in order to find out what went wrong.

Meanwhile, athletics president Go Teng Kok has asked the Ethics Committee of the Philippine Olympic Committee to conduct an inquiry into the selection process made by POC officials prior to the Busan Asiad.

"In my opinion," Go wrote retired Gen. Rene Cruz, chair of the Ethics Committee, "there was blatant abuse of authority in approving the participation of softball and baseball while limiting lawn tennis' entry to only one player instead of the four it requested." Softball, stressed Go, was given the green light to play in Busan based on a third-place finish in an international competition. However, in a recent House hearing, delegation officials admitted the third-place finish was accompanied by a junior team and that the squad that competed in Busan—and lost all its games without scoring a single run—was an entirely different team.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, Robert Pactolerin shot a one-over-par 73 to post a three-stroke victory over Cassius Casas in the Zamboanga Open in Zamboanga City. Also today in 1996, FEU beat University of St. La Salle, 57-48, to bag the basketball crown in the 1st National University Invitational Games in Bacolod City.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Pinoy chessers blank opponents

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippines scored shutout victories in the men's and women's section, respectively, Saturday at the start of the 35th World Chess Olympiad here. The Filipinos blanked Jersey, 4-0, while the Filipinas crushed Brunei, 3-0.

PCA netfest

THE COUNTRY'S best age-group players are seeing action in the Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Juniors Tennis Championships slated next month at the PCA courts.

The first round will be held on Nov. 2-3 while the second round until the quarterfinals will be on 8-10.

Players who wish to join may register with tournament referee Boy Leonora and Loida Mallare at Philta (5256434) or Bobby Mangunay (09189330448) and Jeng Antaran (0918-9367461) at PCA (5638501 loc. 132, 113, 131).

BEST FINISH

Que, RP golfers end up 3rd

KUALA LUMPUR—Angelo Que's putting touch deserted him on the last hole yesterday as he and Team Philippines both settled for third place in the World Amateur Golf Championships at the Saujan Golf & Country Club's Bunga Raya course here.

The two-time national amateur champion three-putted the par 5 No. 18 for bogey that pulled him down to an even par 72 and a 283 total, one shot behind second placer Gregory Bourdy of France, who had another 72.

Coupled with the 68 of Jerome Delariarte, however, Que's effort was enough to enable the Philippines to match its best finish in the biennial tournament won by the United States at the expense of France. Juvic Pagunsan also made a 72 but did not count.

QUE

With its closing 140, Team Philippines wound up with a 574 aggregate, six shots behind the USA's 140=568 and three away from France's 146=571. Australia matched the Philippines' 574 with a 142.

Team Philippines, then composed of Robert Pactolerin, Antolin Fernando, Gil Ababa and Carito Villaroman, also placed third in the 1984 World Amateurs at the Royal Golf and Country Club in Hong Kong.

Australian Marcus Fraser took the individual plum following a 70=282.

The Filipinos thus made a great leap from their 31st place showing in the 2000 Berlin World Amateurs, even surpassing their share of fifth to ninth places when the tournament was held at the Manila Southwoods in 1996.

It was also a magnificent recovery for the men's team, which finished without a medal in the recent Busan Asian Games.

"Right after the Asiad I had a heart-to-heart talk with the boys and I told them to forget about everything. Leave all the bad memories in Busan and continue thinking about the Philippines," said Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez, vice president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines and designated team captain. "This is a vindication for these wonderful boys. They really showed they can do it if they put their hearts into it."

Also with the the team is coach Roger Retuerto.

The Filipinos' stint in the World Amateurs was supported by the Philippine Sports Commission with Twin Hills Golf Company as official outfitter. *Roy Luarca*

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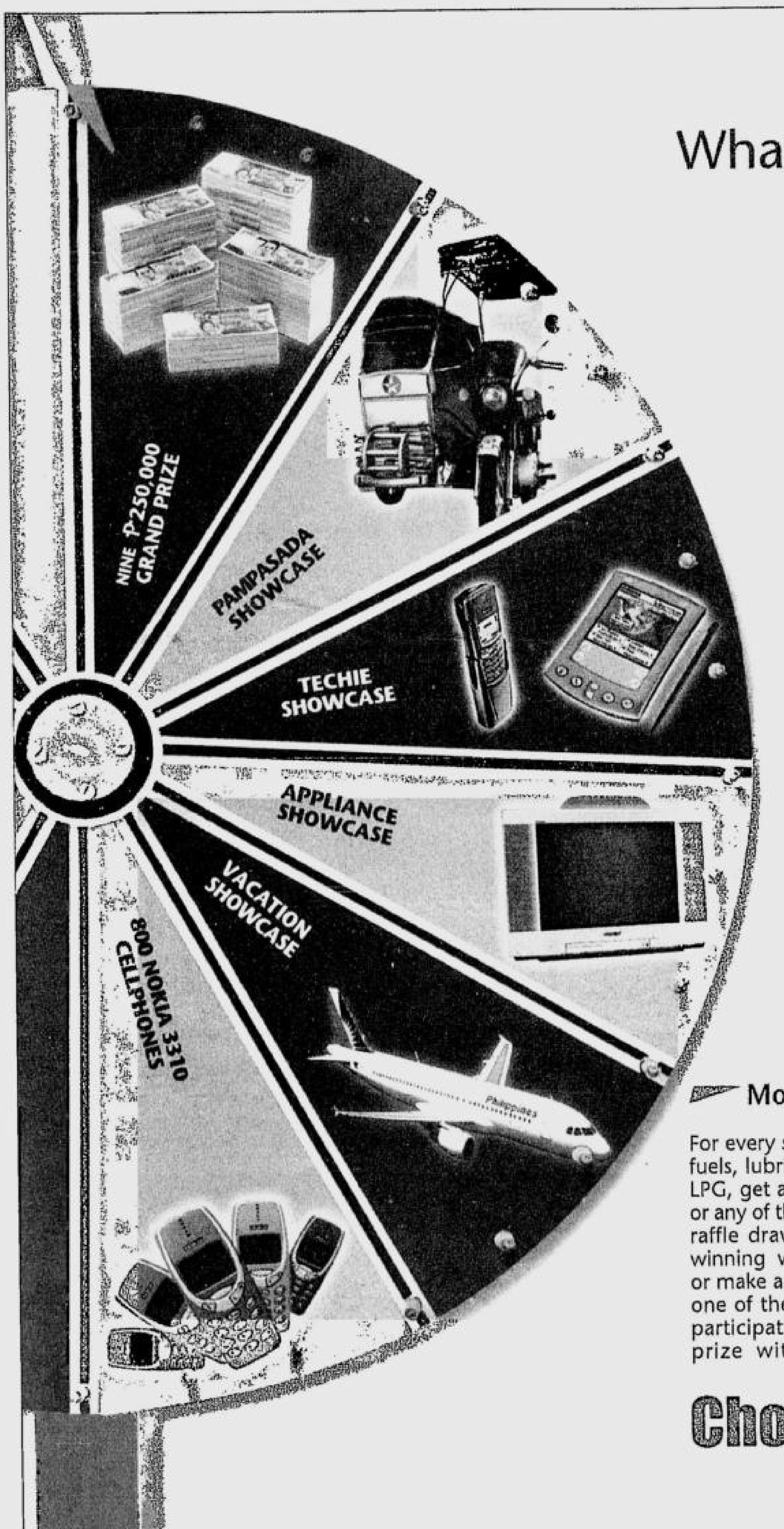

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What Drives You CALTEX

Coke routs Shell

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Ynares Center)
5:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs FedEx

ASIAN Games workhorses Jeffrey Cariaso and Rudy Hatfield starred as Coca Cola mauled Shell Turbo Chargers, 80-52, yesterday in the Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cariaso paved the way for Coca Cola's tigerish game, pumping in 21 of his 23 points in the first half, while Hatfield poured in 15 aside from standing tall in defense.

With the win, Coca Cola evened its record to 1-1, same slates of Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer. Shell fell to 0-2, in the company of FedEx.

Later, Red Bull edged Alaska, 59-57, joining Purefoods on top of the field with its second straight win.

"We don't have a problem with height against Shell," said Coca Cola mentor Chot Reyes. After posting a 41-33 lead, the Tigers choked the Turbo Chargers with an extra-tight defense in the third period.

Shell was limited to nine points and committed seven turnovers as Coca Cola made it 54-42.

The big blast was still to come as Coca Cola greeted its foe with a 14-3 run at the start of the fourth quarter for a 68-45 lead.

Scores:

COCA COLA 80—Cariaso 23, Hatfield 15, Reavis 9, Antonio 8, Manalo 7, Avenido 5, Juinio 4, Abarrientos 3, Abuda 2, Lao 2, Morano 2.

SHELL 52—Calaguio 10, Bacani 10, De la Cruz 7, Wainwright 7, Jackson 5, Singson 4, Del Rosario 4, Hrabak 3, Espiana 2, Marzan 2, Sison 2, Canlas 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 41-33, 54-42, 80-52.

UE sweeps Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNIVERSITY of the East survived the ejection of coach Boyzie Zamar and Ateneo's torrid outside shooting to escape with an 88-85 win and capture the Battle of Champions yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Zamar was thrown out after losing his cool with 4:27 remaining in the third period but the Red Warriors, under assistant mentor Djalma Arnedo, fought well till the end.

Thus, UE, whose last major title came during the 1985 UAAP cage wars, swept the best-of-three title series. It won Game One, 86-69, last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Meanwhile, La Salle president Bro. Rolando Dizon, FSC. sent the INQUIRER a letter he wrote to the La Sallian community dated Oct. 23, in order to put an end to the speculation surrounding the recent UAAP finals. Dizon wrote: "The players accused of having thrown a game categorically deny having done so, and I personally believe these gentelemen. We lost a game to a better team, fair and square. Let us accept that humbly and proceed to work harder to regain the crown next year."

Another INQUIRER caller was respected businessman-sportsman Terry Capistrano, La Salle team manager, who categorically denied saying statements attributed to him in another paper regarding Mike Cortez.

Scores:

UE 88—Tubid 21, Yap 19, Masbang 13, Artadi 10, Tan 6, Butel 6, Omiping 5, Canaleta 4, Estrada 2, Hubalde 2.

ATENEO 85—Fonacier 27, Gonzales 15, Tenorio 11, Chia 10, Alvarez 8, Villanueva 4, Quimpo 3, Cruz 3, Elmido 2, Tadeo 2.

Quarters: 24-6, 43-38, 67-52, 88-85.

Sermona, Campos rule footrace

AIRMAN Julius Sermona of Binalbagan, Negros Occidental unleashed a blistering pace in the last kilometer to repulse Milo Marathon Manila elimination champion Melchor Mirasol of General Santos City and rule the final leg of the adidas Pharmaton 10K Run held recently in Bacolod City.

The 23-year-old Sermona clocked 32:42 to claim the crown that eluded him last year when he placed second. Mirasol, a nephew of Olympian Eduardo Buenavista, timed 33:36 while Iloilo's Adonis Lobaton pocketed third place in 33:54.

In the distaff side, defending champion Marigen Campos of Roxas City made it two in a row when she won in 41:14.

Mayor Joy Valdez fired off over 400 runners who took part.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo together with adidas' Goody Custodio, Pharmaton's Rudy Ikalina and Jake Labiran and Timex Beth Florea, awarded the prizes which included cash, trophies, medals, adidas running shoes, Rudy Project sunglasses, Timex watches and Pharmaton gift packs.

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

McDonald's crew member shot dead / A27

Boyfriend blamed by cops

'He shouldn't have let her go alone'

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF HER boyfriend had accompanied her to the Metro Rail Transit station last Friday morning, Jollibee crew member Melba Espalardo would still be alive today, according to police.

Espalardo, 20, of the Jollibee branch on Reposo Street in Makati and a resident of Pasay City, was found dead with several stab wounds at the MRT Guadalupe station, also in Makati, less than an hour after she left her boyfriend's house.

Her boyfriend Mark Anthony Abaroa, 20, also an employee of Jollibee at Global City in Taguig, told police she had left his home in Guadalupe Nuevo at 4:45 a.m. to go home to Pasay. Security guard Domingo Oneja found Espalardo's bloodied body at 5:25 a.m. Her pants and underwear had been pulled down.

SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman, chief of the Makati homicide section, said Espalardo's killing could have been prevented had Abaroa accompanied her on her way home. Timtiman said he and other investigators were puzzled why he let her go home alone.

"There was negligence on his part," he said. "But it's too late to blame anyone now. We'll just find whoever did this."

Citing initial medical reports, Chief Insp. Emma Delelis of the Southern Police District's Scene of the Crime Operatives yesterday said Espalardo had not been raped.

Yesterday morning, scavengers found Espalardo's Jollibee uniform and other belongings near the MRT station, said Timtiman.

Police are looking for a man, said to be an MRT employee, who was seen at the Guadalupe overpass before Espalardo's body was found.

"He's not necessarily a suspect but he can certainly shed light on the case," Timtiman said, adding that the man wore what appeared to be an MRT ID when he was seen at the MRT station.

At 5 a.m. Friday after she left Abaroa's house, Espalardo had sent him a text message saying the MRT station was still close and that she might have to walk far.

30-year-old rally ban rediscovered

By Jerome Aning

A 30-YEAR-OLD ordinance banning demonstrations within a 500-foot radius of all embassies in Manila has been resurrected and will be implemented by police.

Councilor Jhosep Lopez recently "re-discovered" Ordinance No. 7295, which was passed by Manila's municipal board on Nov. 9, 1977 and approved by Mayor Ramon Bagatsing 16 days later.

Lopez said the ordinance is one of the city laws that the police are not aware of or are not implementing.

The ordinance prohibits rallies and pickets within a radius of 500 feet from any foreign mission or chancery in Manila. Violators face a P100-fine, imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both.

But Lopez said he is considering a move to scrap the old law, which restricts freedom of expression.

30-YEAR-OLD/ A27

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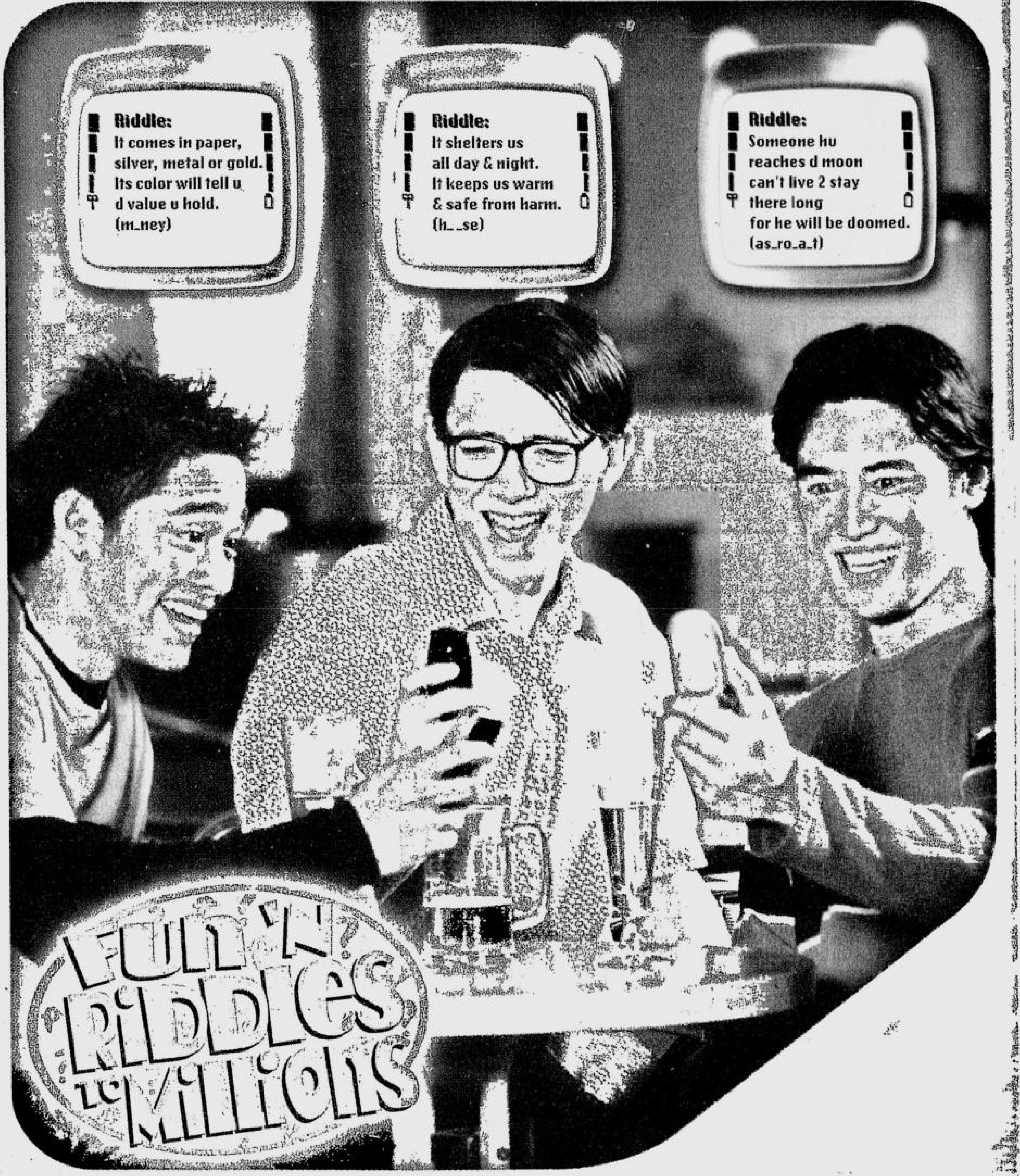
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McDonald's crew member shot dead

By Jerome Aning

AN EMPLOYEE of the McDonald's fast-food chain was shot dead yesterday, caught between clashing members of rival street gangs in San Andres' Bukid, Manila.

Roger Alac, a McDonald's service crew member and resident of F. Muñoz Street, also in San Andres, died at the Philippine General Hospital.

Homicide investigator SPO4 Eduardo Ko said Alac visited his friend Chuck John Matipo on nearby Baguio Street at 2:30 a.m. to find out if a baptismal party they were supposed to attend would take place as scheduled.

Matipo told police that after their brief conversation, Alac went out to the street to call another friend on his cell phone.

Unknown to them, members of the Matikas Real and West Side Coast gangs were in the middle of a brawl.

Police said Alac was standing at the corner of Munoz and Baguio streets when he was shot with an improvised shotgun (*sumpak*) by a gang member.

Alac died from several pellet wounds in the body. He was brought to PGH only after the warring youths had fled the scene, police said.

Some of the gang members in the clash were identified by police as Ron-Ron, Michael Pickler and Jobeth.

New traffic scheme

By Christian V. Esguerra

STARTING tomorrow, the Metro Manila Development Authority will implement a new traffic scheme to help decongest the busy interchange under the shaky Alabang viaduct in Muntinlupa City, according to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

The new traffic program will ban vehicles from crossing or turning left in the interchange. They will have to make a U-turn along the interchange to go to their destination.

In one or two weeks, Vergel de Dios said, the MMDA would reassess the traffic situation in the area and recommend either the continuation or lifting of the ban on trucks in the city's streets between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily.

Truckers have been opposing the ban.

Pacquiao key to change in poor knockdown rule

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SAMAL Island—He slept with unexpected terror.

Yesterday, a sunny Sunday morning, the first thing Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte did was ring up the hospital where a half-conscious Thai boxer was rushed Saturday night.

Duterte finally smiled upon being assured that the outmatched challenger that International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao had shocked and stopped in the first round at the RMC stadium downtown Davao was out of danger.

"There was nobody else to take care of him here," Duterte told the INQUIRER over suckling pig dinner at the Davao Madayaw. "It's my duty to look after his well-being."

Later at the After Dark lounge, where media people and the staff behind the Duel in Davao world boxing championship partied on sweetish grilled tuna and exquisite Torres wine and brandy, there came unconfirmed reports that Fahrakorb Rikkiatgym, the fallen challenger, had hovered on the verge of a coma. He kept lapsing back to sleep after brief moments of wakefulness.

***

The visiting Thai fighter, mandatory challenger to Pacquiao's world crown, was scheduled to check out of the Davao Doctors Hospital yesterday afternoon. Fight physician Nasser Cruz said the Thai suffered contusions, but a subsequent CT scan bared no blood clots.

The battered challenger is scheduled to return to Bangkok today, hours after that riot of a title fight where he absorbed immeasurable inhospitality from the fiery, power-punching champion.

Fans and experts continued to talk in awe about the first punch that stunned and floored the Thai. Was it a bludgeon or a blade?

"It was a crisp phantom blow, like that famous six-inch punch of the late Joe Louis," said referee Bruce McTavish, who worked his briefest world championship.

***

That punch, masked as a setup jab, inexplicably sailed and landed as a lethal right cross. The truth, later bared Pacquiao's handlers, was that it took the champ two months to perfect the new weapon that also confirmed Pacquiao, awesome with his fabled left hand, could also be a multimillionaire with his right fist.

The championship purse was P8 million, half of which is expected to go to the champ.

The beaten Thai, whose name is expected to be totally forgotten around Davao before the weekend, was paid $20,000.

It was indeed an expensive promotion, said North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, main man behind the successful card, who added that the dividends Davao and the whole of Mindanao could reap would be hard to measure.

***

Frankly speaking, Pacquiao said he was himself surprised at the quick and easy ending. For one, the challenger entered the ring packing a sterling record: 33 straight victories, 22 by knockout.

Prior to the Saturday night demolition, the Thai had lost only twice, with both defeats on points coming before 1994.

Gov. Piñol said Thai TV secured tapes of the championship, but it's doubtful if the fight would be presented in the Nov. 6 schedule on Bangkok's Channel 7.

Anyway, up in the ring, after the victory stampede had subsided, Pacquiao was swearing that he came ready to rumble. He ended having a fistic picnic.

In fact, the punches Pacquiao assembled and dished out following the initial decking was a smorgasbord of hot, flashing leather rarely displayed in a world championship.

***

Actually, the poor Thai could've been saved that emergency trip to the hospital if the IBF had not waived the three-knocked rule.

The visitor was a goner after a second Pacquiao blitz floored the Thai again, but the challenger kept getting back, a truly dedicated subject of his beloved king whose framed picture he brought all the way from Bangkok to his dugout in Davao.

With the gory outcome, referee McTavish can now arm himself with a solid case when he bats for a return to the three-knockdown rule in the next IBF convention.

Himself speaking, Pacquiao quipped he was not in any way puzzled by his latest victim.

You know why?

Because the Thai was a very slow puncher, Pacquiao said. He did not only telegraph his fistic message. A punch thrown on a Monday, Pacquiao said laughing, often arrived only on Friday.

No need to confirm here that Pacquiao, maybe the hottest world boxing property in the 122-pound kingdom, had a harder time answering in English the post-fight questions thrown at him than dusting off his opponent.

You see, an international language had to be used as the fight was also beamed to several foreign channels, both around Southeast Asia and the US Midwest.

That scrimmage in English against the hard-hitting champ nearly landed this reporter in the hospital.

Thank God, he has, after making unpronounceable mistakes in his previous column, been declared out of danger and given a one-day break in the seaside Barcelo Pearl Farm this side of the Samal paradise.

30-year-old...

From page A25

He, however, added that technically, "the law, until repealed, must be obeyed."

Unless there is "real evidence of a clear and present danger that violence would erupt, the people must be generally allowed to express their sentiments," Lopez said.

Chief Insp. Floriano Agunod of the Western Police District public information office said the police have been enforcing the "essence" of the ordinance.

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'I don't want people to get tired of me'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"AYOKONG mapagsawaan ng tao," declared actor Aga Muhlach. After 18 years in the movies, he said he still gets the jitters whenever he has a new movie.

"After doing several feel-good movies, I realized I wanted to do something different," the actor said during a media conference at the ABS-CBN compound for his new movie opposite Claudine Barretto, "Kahit Kailan." "But now that I feel like I'm coming up with something new, I'm scared that people will think I'm not good enough for the role."

The story is directed by Rory B. Quintos from a script written by the award-winning duo Shaira Mella Salvador and Raymond Lee for Star Cinema.

Aga plays Carl Diesta, a New York-based celebrity chef who comes home to marry his supermodel fiancée Chrissy Duran (Rissa Mananquil-Samson) in her hometown of Legazpi, Albay in Bicol. With Chrissy still working in Europe, Carl was left with Chrissy's sister Lena (Claudine Barretto) to prepare for the wedding. Lena, also an accomplished cook, unconsciously teaches Carl to recognize true love and give in to great passion.

Aga, who has been lauded by critics for his acting, claimed he had a hard time playing Carl. "*Direk* Rory was emphatic when she said she wanted Carl to be really different from Aga," he said. "My first reaction was, 'What? How will I do that?"

He did away with his natural mannerisms, he said. He made sure that Carl the character does not bow his head or toss his hair the way Aga the celebrity does. "Slowly I began to feel comfortable with the changes, *hanggang sa hindi ko na makita ang sarili ko kay* Carl," he explained.

Aga did two movies under Rory's direction, "Basta't Kasama Kita" with former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres in 1995 and "Sa Aking Mga Kamay" with Christopher de Leon and Chin Chin Gutierrez in 1996.

He said "Kailangan Kita" is not your typical feel-good film but "is a film of passion and sensuality."

"Carl and Lena tried to hide their attraction to each other for a long time, so when they learned to let go, they let go in a very passionate way," Aga said.

Though Aga is worried that he might not come up to the thespic requirements of the complex character he is playing, he is confident that the role of Lena will earn numerous citations for Claudine.

"This is definitely Claudine's most affecting performance so far," he said.

"Kailangan Kita" was shot for almost seven months in Bicol and in Sta. Rita, Pampanga. Aga said he finished shooting the final scenes just two Mondays ago. "*Halos doon na kami tumira,*" he said.

"Kailangan Kita" also stars Liza Lorena, Johnny Delgado, Gardo Versosa, Cris Villanueva, Cholo Escano and Dante Rivero.

'I DON'T/A31

AGA Muhlach admits having the jitters while doing his new movie.

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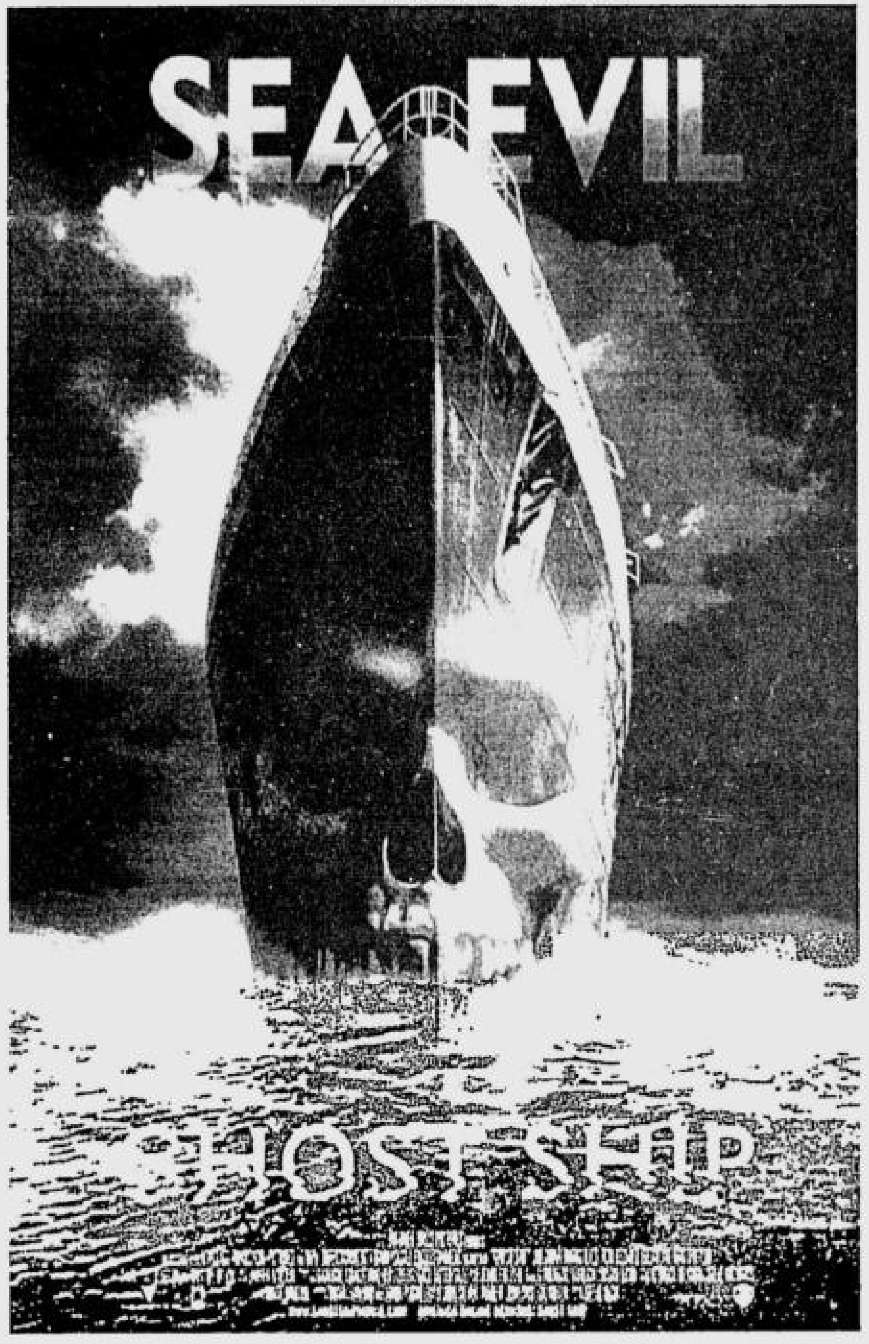

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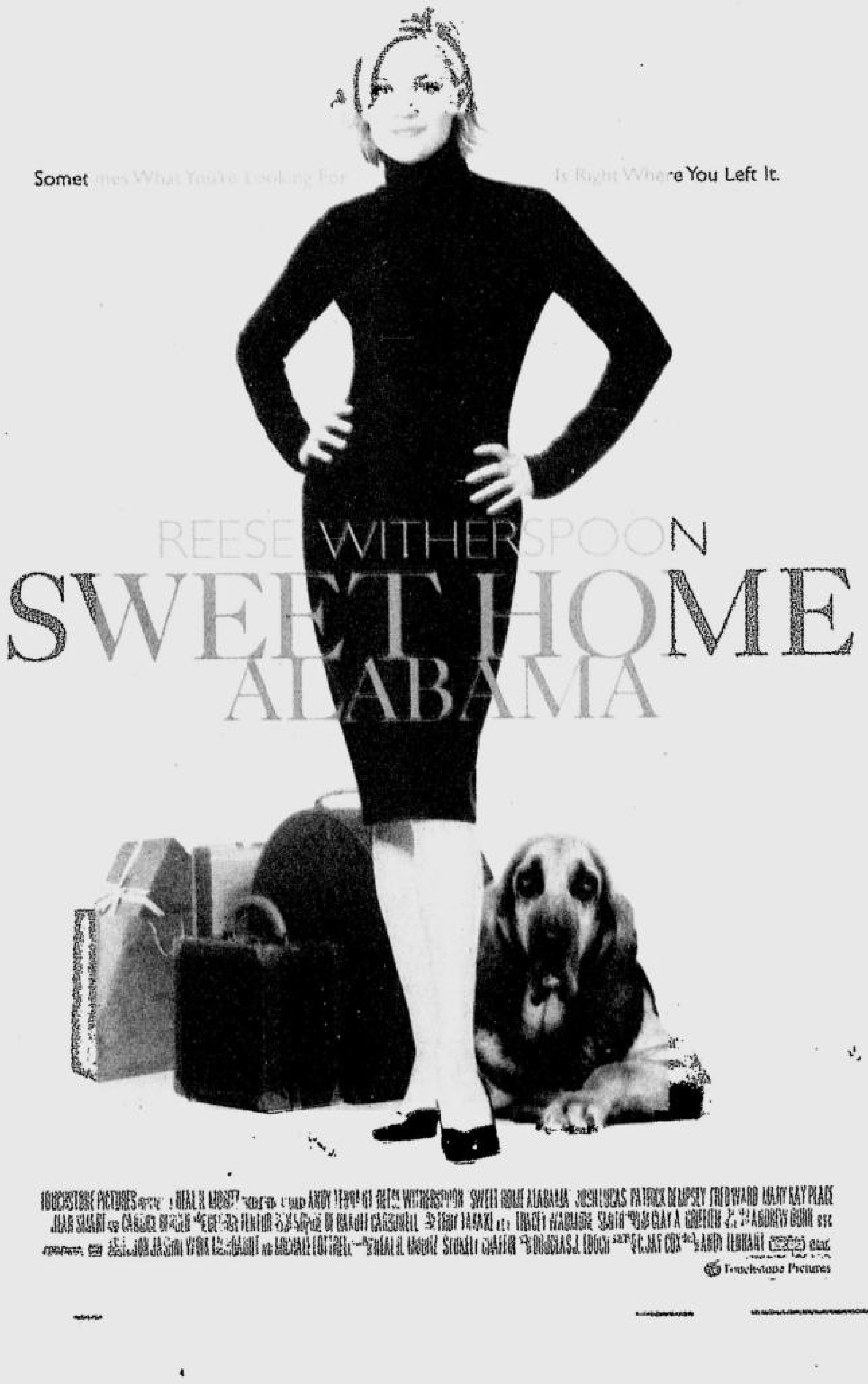
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'I Am Sam' now on video; sale proceeds to help wards of Asilo

TO RAISE awareness of the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul orphanage and to help the children under the care of the orphanage, C-Interactive Digital Entertainment is working together with the Manileña Jaycees.

The the company is releasing its latest movie, "I Am Sam," starring Academy Award nominees Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of the video will go directly to the Asilo children.

The film is the funny and poignant story of the price a father must pay to ensure his daughter's happiness.

PENN and Pfeiffer in "I Am Sam."

The movie features outstanding performances by Penn as Sam and Pfeiffer as the feisty lawyer Rita. It also introduces the child actress Dakota Fanning as Lucy, Sam's daughter.

"I Am Sam" is available on original VHS and VCD copies at a lowered price of P250.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive Customer Care hotline 2455011-12 and help the unfortunate children of the Asilo.

Malabon CitiSquare opening

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 30, will be full of fun, prizes and excitement as the Malabon CitiSquare opens with a bang at the corner of Dagat-Dagatan and C-4.

A variety show at 4 p.m. will feature stars Leandro Muñoz, Monina Bagatsing, Mosang, Crossmovers and Michelle Bayle, followed by the Boss Band.

The event is also sponsored by Jollibee, Hang Ten, Chinoy Delicacies, Net Boutique, Abenson, Dimsum & Dumplings, WG&A ticketing office, Malabon CitiSquare Bayad Center, ATMACS and Events on Line.

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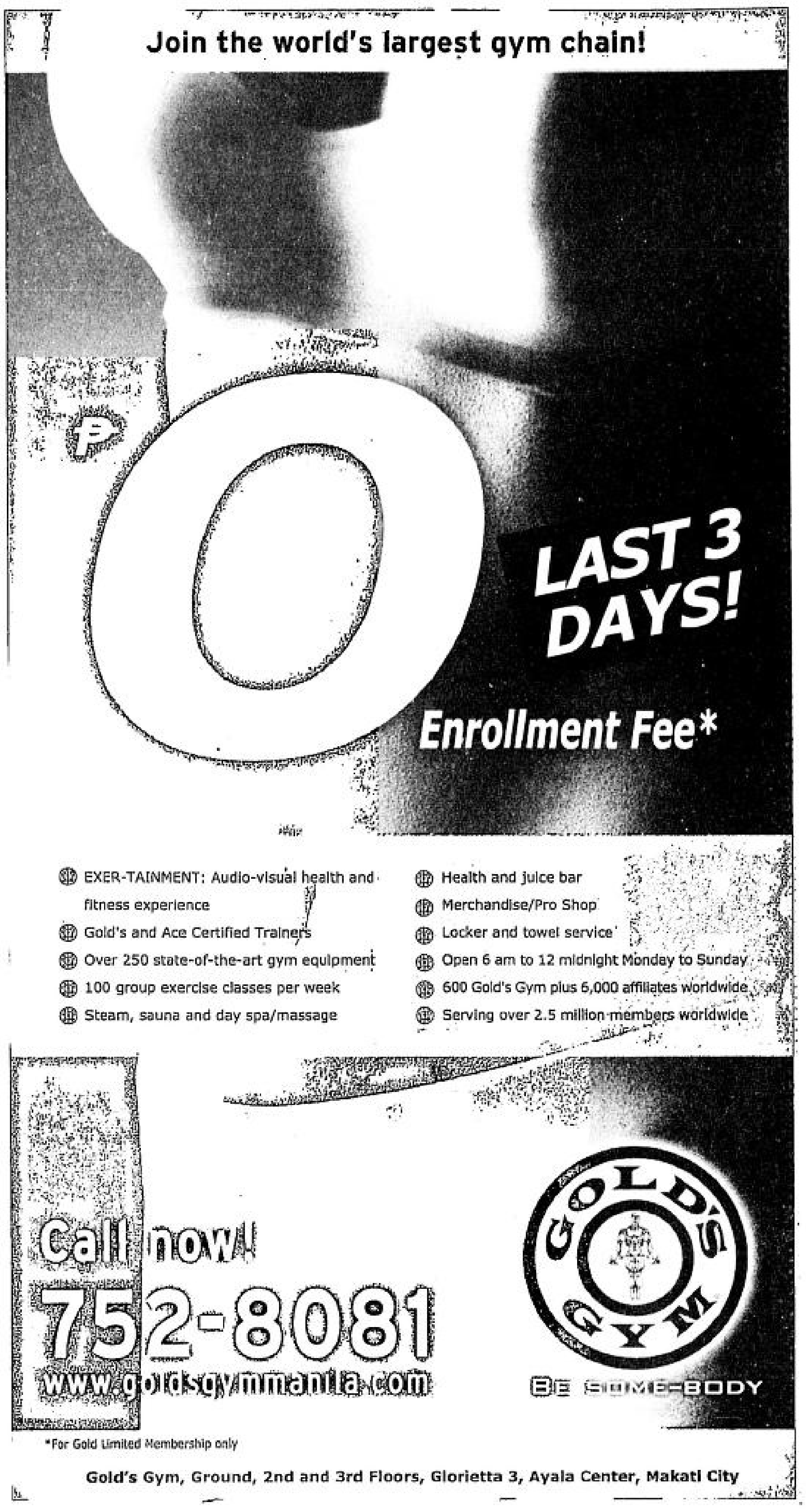
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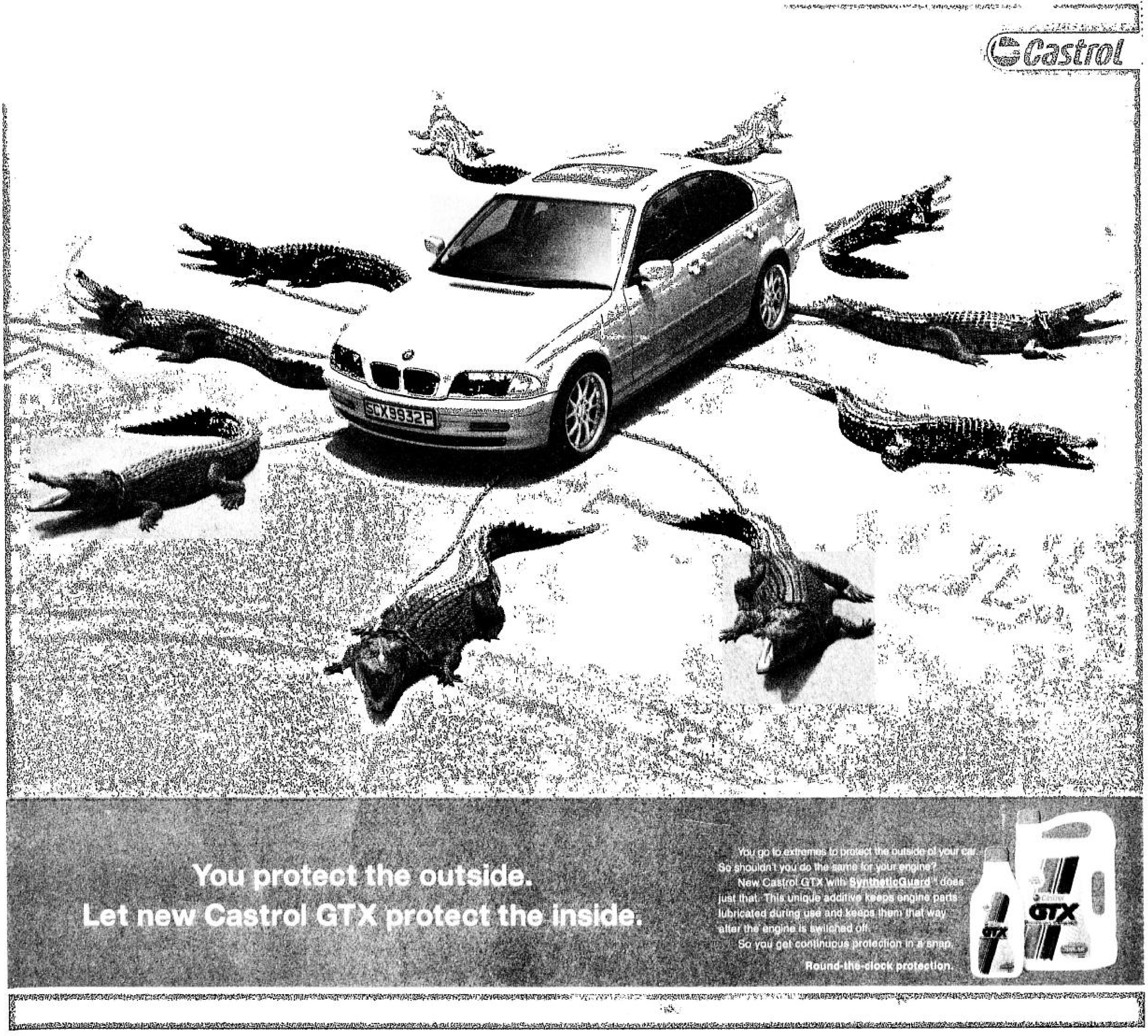
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Scary movies on TV

NOW that it's close to Halloween, film distributors, producers, movie channel programmers and video shop owners are trotting out the spookiest movies ever made. Some fear-inducing prospects are showing on television.

For a handy overview, the Cinemax channel leads off on Friday, Nov. 1 at 1:15 p.m. with "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made."

Other scary possibilities on that day: At 11:45 a.m., "The Unborn," and 12:30 a.m., "Jaws III."

"The Unborn" is about a young wife with a history of miscarriages. She is convinced that a mysterious doctor has inseminated her with mutated sperm. The result: a monstrous fetus so tough that it outlives an attempted abortion. Convincing performances place this horror tale a notch above its exploitive subject matter.

And "Jaws III" is about a shark on the loose in Florida's Sea World.

Saturday, Nov. 2, 9:15 a.m., "The Disappearance of Nora." 9 p.m., "Mercy." 1:55 a.m., "The Unholy."

"Mercy" is about a tough female detective investigating the bizarre,ritualistic murder of several women. She finds the trail leading to a prominent psychiatrist who's involved with one of her female patients. Starring **Ellen Barklin, Julian Sands** and **Peta Wilson.**

"The Unholy" puts a priest to the test when an archbishop assigns him to cast out the devil from a New Orleans Church. Special effects are arresting, but the storytelling is unconvincing. **Nicole Fostier** makes a supersexy demon, though.

Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2:15 a.m., "Fright Night 2." Sister of the vampire who met a grisly end in the first "Fright Night" film now seeks revenge on the duo who destroyed him.

Directing breaks in Hollywood

IF the film-directing scene is very competitive here, it's even more daunting in Holywood, where only very select few survive, and even fewer flourish. What did it take for the international film scenes most famous megmen to get to direct their first feature films?

Steven Spielberg made short films in his early teens. "Amblin" (1969) landed him a contract with Universal, and his auspicious feature-film debut, "Duel" (1971).

Stanley Kubrick started out as an apprentice photographer for look magazine. He made documentary shorts for the RKO studio, and his work was noticed by producer **James B. Harris,** who tapped him to direct "the Killing." This was quickly followed by "Paths of Glory," which was hailed as one of the greatest anti-war movies of all time, and Kubrick was on his way.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Robert Benton trained as a painter and worked as art director at Esquire magazine, where he got to know some writers, with whom he collaborated on some scripts. With **David Newman,** he co-wrote the screenplay for "Bonnie and Clyde." That controversial film's success led to his being asked to direct "Kramer VS. Kramer," which established his directorial credentials.

Brian De Palma first studied physics but later shifted to drama. After college, he began making 16mm shorts, then moved on to low-budget features like "Sisters" (1972), before he went mainstream with "The Untouchables" and "Carlitos Way."

Terrence Malick graduated from Harvard and Oxford, worked as a journalist at Newsweek and Life, and taught philosophy before finally heeding the clarion call of the movies. He wrote the script for "Pocket Money," then directed "Badlands," a film about two sociopaths on a killing spree.

Sydney Pollack first worked in the theater before he acted on television, where he befriended **Burt Lancaster** starting with "The Slender Thread."

Billy Wilder was born in Austria, worked as a journalist in Berlin, and claimed to have been a gigolo! His screenplay for "Ninotchka" (starring **Greta Garbo**) attracted a lot of attention, and led to his directorial debut with "The Major and the Minor."

Robert Aldrich studied law and economics, but decided that what he wanted to do most was to make movies. So, he moved to Hollywood and, quite methodically, he began working his way up the ladder at RKO, going from production clerk to associate producer. That gave him the leverage to move into directing with "Big League."

Robert Altman studied engineering, was a military pilot during the Second World War, made some industrial films, worked in television, and made his name in mainstream filmmaking with "M.A.S.H."

John Boorman has had quite a dizzying range of jobs-from dry cleaner to film critic, assistant film editor, and documentary producer! His first feature, "Catch Us If You Can," was a wacky film with the Dave Clark Five. Then he turned serious with "Point Blank," "Deliverance" and "The Emerald Forest," which firmed up his reputation.

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / SEX & ZEN
ODEON	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	BEDTIME STORY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MINORITY REPORT / SLACKERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BEDTIME STORY
REMAR	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
REMAR-2	BEDTIME STORY
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORY
CINEMA-3	BESTMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-6	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CINEMA-8	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-15	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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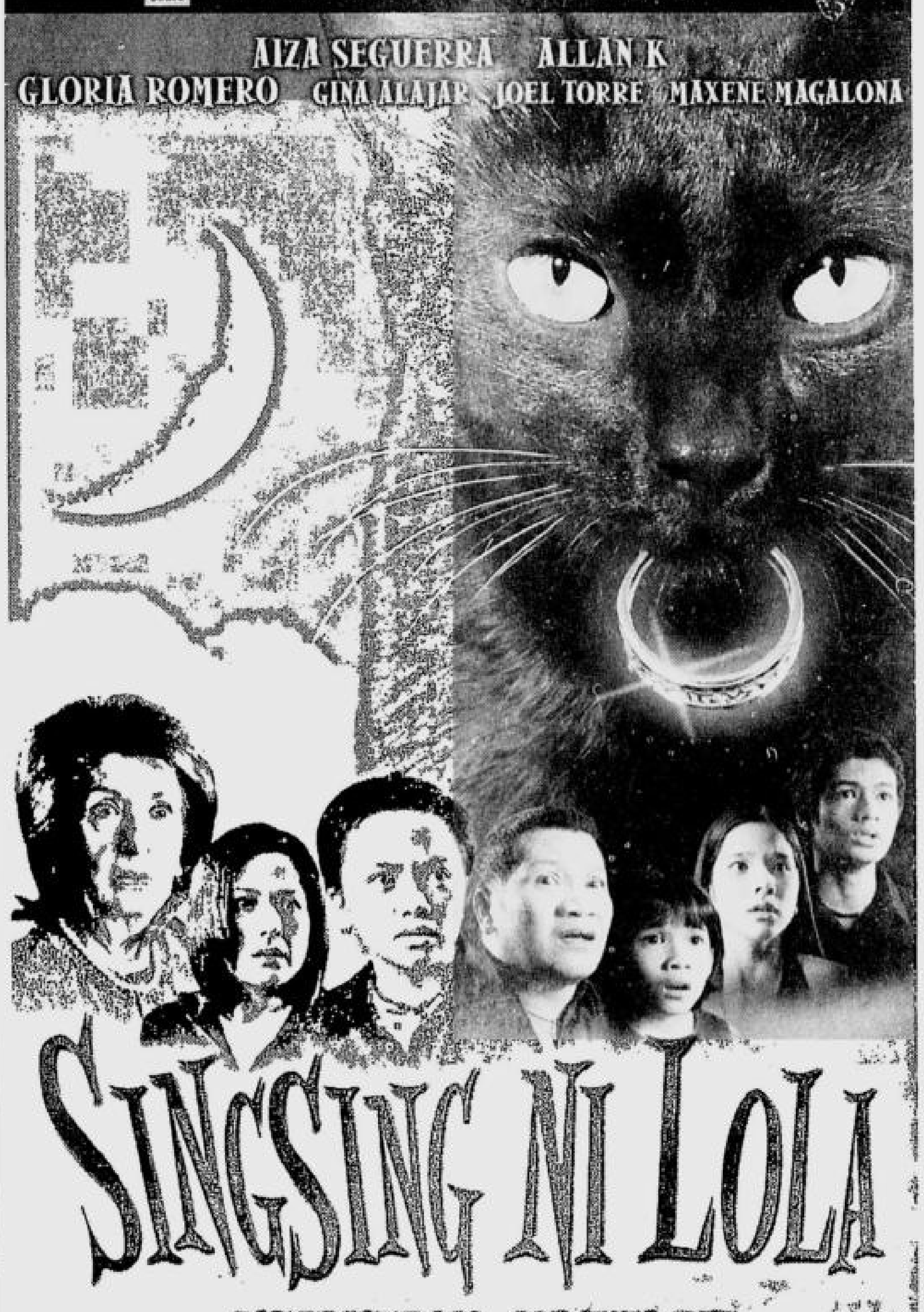

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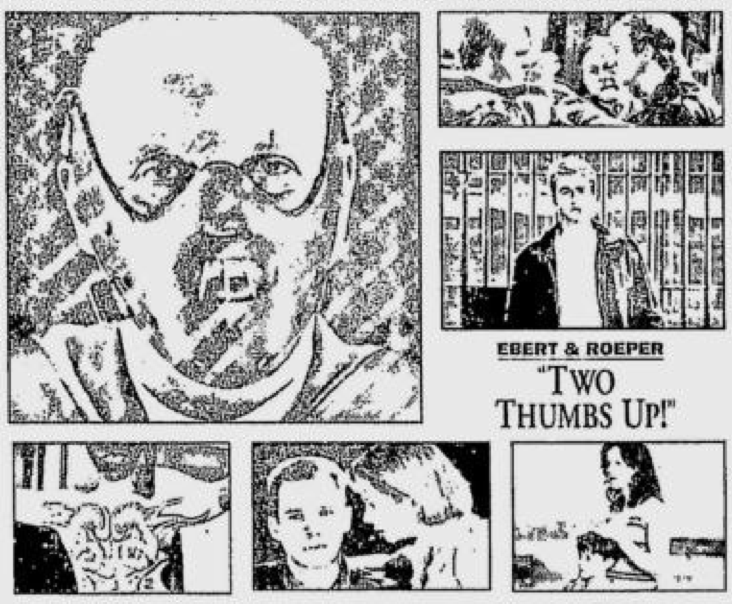

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- Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.
www.smallvoices.cjb.net

'Red Dragon': Hannibal Lecter's humble beginnings

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

TECHNICALLY, this is the fourth movie that features the classy cannibal Hannibal Lecter. "Manhunter" was the first film adaptation of the Thomas Harris novel "Red Dragon" in 1986, a prequel to 1991's "Silence of the Lambs."

Cashing in on last year's sequel "Hannibal," this prequel intends to explore and detail the themes the original version left out. The screenplay by Ted Tally, who won an Oscar for "Silence," sought to flesh out character elements that were inevitably lost in that prior adaptation. Young director Brett Ratner handles the reins this time, accomplishing a more frenetic handling of the original story.

Ratner may have caused initial apprehension among some people. He was best known for directing the "Rush Hour" action-comedies and some Mariah Carey videos, after all. He pleasantly displays his pliability, however, by capturing the salient seriousness of the Lecter movies, bringing a more prominent dissection to the disturbed central figure than its 1986 predecessor.

Self-contained

While it doesn't manifest the grandeur of "Silence of the Lambs," this effort stands on its own and is self-contained enough that it pushes the right reactionary buttons without having the need to replicate what's been done in those two movies.

What we see is a Hannibal that's still characteristically diabolical, but the sheer spontaneity of the character has worn off after Anthony Hopkins' first take on this career-defining role. We see the good old doctor's humble beginnings as a forensic psychiatrist who already has an appetite for questionable exotic dishes.

Before Clarice Starling ever sought his expert advice, he was mucking up with the head of another FBI agent, Will Graham (Edward Norton). Graham needs the jailed shrink's expertise in deciphering the mindscape and identity of a new serial killer, the "Tooth Fairy" (Ralph Fiennes). This new madman acts as the avatar of the "Red Dragon," a symbolic character from the biblical paintings of 1700s English poet and artist William Blake. The three lead characters engage in lethal mind games, with Graham trying his damndest to outbluff and evade the pair of nefarious criminal masterminds.

"Red Dragon" boasts of one of the more impressive casts in recent memory. Hopkins won an Oscar for his first Lecter portrayal. Four nominees—Norton, Fiennes, Emily Watson and Harvey Keitel—grace the screen with their finely-honed presence. Tony Award-winner Mary-Louise Parker has a small but vital appearance as well (she's barely recognizable here as a brunette).

Exquisite

Watson as Reba McClane, the Red Dragon's blind girlfriend, is simply exquisite. Norton, usually consistent for pulling off myriad-minded personas in the past, seems like he's repeating his "Keeping the Faith" character in certain parts. But he displays his versatility well when he's placed in situations where he's required to mask his vulnerabilities when talking to Lecter, or when he's infuriated by tabloid sleaze bag Freddy Lounds (the equally gifted Philip Seymour Hoffman).

Fiennes does justice to the Tooth Fairy role, which is a far more substantial depiction of the villain than in "Manhunter." But Fiennes, as a harelipped psychotic or not, has been convincing in his use of chameleon-like shifting prowess. He stuns, but it's no big surprise, when he's shown possessing a softer side for other "disfigured" people.

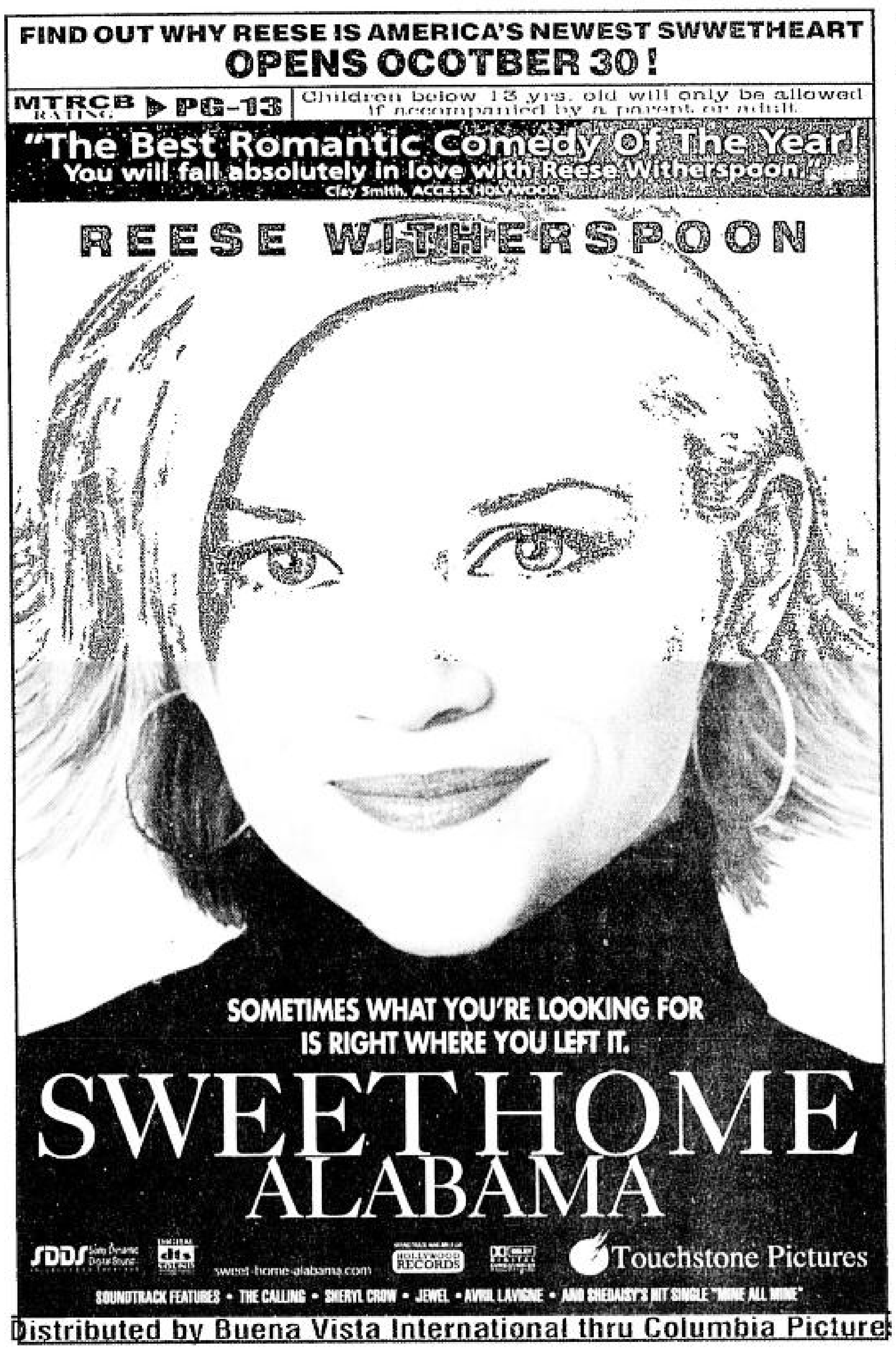
Lecter is still the master badass, but with a diminished frightfulness. This movie, however, puts him in some well-lit scenes that don't exactly establish him as the caged demigod, at least not yet. He still proves, though, that he's perfectly capable of inflicting indirect injury even from behind bars. His scenes with Norton and "Boston Public" mainstay Anthony Heald (who reprises his original role as Dr. Chilton) are quite enjoyable, comparisons to similarities in the 1991 film notwithstanding. Ultimately, Lecter's not as repugnant as he was when he showed off his culinary genius in "Hannibal."

Dream come true

Just having these wonderful actors in one place is a casting director's dream come true, and seeing them interact and face off makes it all worth watching.

Even if Danny Elfman's music belabors the obvious sometimes, and the story tends to unravel with very little cryptic-ness; one can't help but sit back and discover how this piece completes the trilogy, discounting "Manhunter."

And it's a pretty decent dish. It's nowhere near as groundbreaking as "Silence . . ." nor as shockingly funny as "Hannibal," but it's an interesting revelation that connects rather nicely to them.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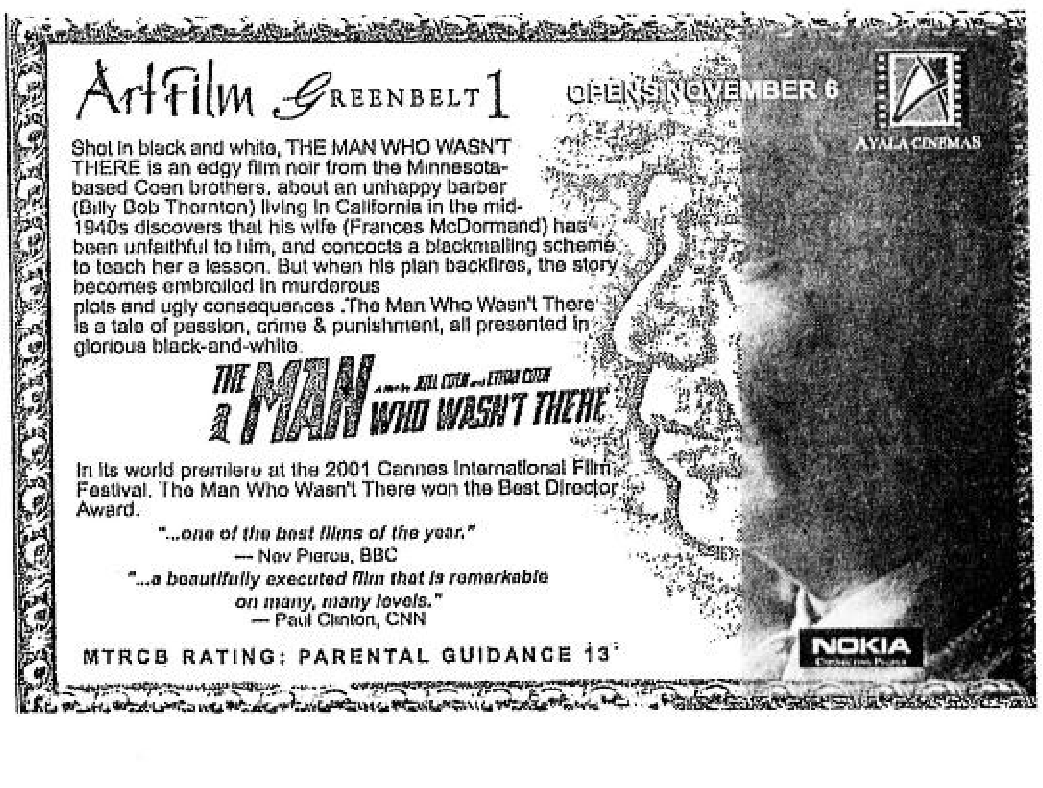
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
OPENS NOVEMBER 6
AYALA CINEMAS
Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.
THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE
In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.
"...one of the best films of the year." — Nev Pierce, BBC
"...a beautifully executed film that is remarkable on many, many levels." — Paul Clinton, CNN
MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
NOKIA

Freedom fighter's story at ArtFilm

"THE LEGEND of Bhagat Singh," directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, is the story of a freedom fighter who sacrificed his life for the country.

In the dead of the night on March 23, 1931, three bodies are smuggled out of the Lahore Central Jail. They are taken to an isolated place and surreptitiously cremated by British officers. The incident creates a national uproar throughout India.

The film takes us on a riveting journey of Shaheed Bhagat Singh's remarkable life: His searing anguish as a 12-year-old during the Jallainwala Bang massacre, his whole-hearted participation in Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement of 1921, his disillusionment after Gandhi called the movement off, and his obsessive search as a teenager for a strategy that would free his country from the inhuman yoke of British rule.

The very start of the film instantly arrests the viewer's attention. The bodies of the three freedom fighters being smuggled out of jail and the subsequent uproar when Gandhi visits Lahore transport us to an era which most of us haven't seen.

The movie abounds in moments that will remain etched in your memory even after the screening has ended. Memorable moments like the assassination of Saunders by Singh and Rajguru, or the scene where Singh goes on a hunger strike to protest the food and living conditions of prisoners.

Director Raikumar Santoshi's master strokes are visible in several places. This is undoubtedly his finest attempt.

Writer Anjum Rajabali also deserves full marks.

"The Legend of Bhagat Singh" is a winner all the way.

It is showing at ArtFilm in Makati until Oct. 29.

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9 MORNINGS GP 12:00,2:15,4:30, 6:45,9:00	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	RED DRAGON R18 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION - R18 11:50,1:45,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	BALLISTIC P13 11:45,1:45,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00	POSSESSION P13 12:20,2:30,4:40.

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Assunta...

From page A32

Most cruel of all the talk is that she is marrying Jules for his money.

"In fairness, *malaki din naman ang sahod ko bilang isang artista*. I gifted him with a car recently and he brags about it to his colleagues."

If there is one person who Assunta feels showed concern for her at a time when everybody seemed to have abandoned her, it's her Italian father.

"When I told him that I intended to marry, he wrote back and I was surprised *sa sobrang kapal ng ipinadala niyang* envelope *sa akin*. To my surprise, it contained documents needed for the marriage. That was the best gift I got from him. He also wrote that I should not feel alone because he is proud of me. I was close to my father when I was a child."

Assunta said she and Jules intend to have a civil wedding in November. A church wedding will take place after two years, she added. For their honeymoon, they plan to go on a cruise.

It is not their priority to have a baby immediately, she said.

Speaking of children, how is she addressed by Jules' two children?

"They call me Ate and I am their best friend, an older sister. When we are together, *ayaw na nga nilang humiwalay sa akin*. I adore both of them."

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
AYALA CINEMAS
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'I don't...

From page A28

Aga's previous hit was last year's romantic flick, "Pangako Sa 'Yo Lamang" with singer-actress Regine Velasquez. He said it took him a while to do another movie because he has been very busy with his and Charlene Gonzales' twins Antonio Andres and Atasha Aaron.

Did Aga do justice to his latest role?

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Assunta: Bye-bye, boldie?

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

EVER since Assunta de Rossi's life became entwined with that of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, her life has become a *teleserye* that refuses to end. It even eclipsed all the bold and sexy portrayals she has done in the movies.

How will it end? Will there be a grand wedding, with everybody tearful but happy, including her younger sister Alessandra de Rossi and their mother Nenita Schiavone? Will the relationship survive all odds?

A lot of questions were crying to be asked on a recent Friday evening despite the pleadings of the Regal Films public relations not to be too personal. Still, Assunta answered all the queries with candidness, without a trace of annoyance.

But first, a plug. Assunta is promoting her new movie, "Bahid," said to be boldest and her last bold one.

We repeat, "Bahid" is her last bold movie. She said she intends to appear only in films that would not require her to bare her body. Yes, she will honor previous commitments provided the bold element is out. It is high time, she said, that she gets appreciated for her acting.

"*Hindi naman siguro ako bobang umarte, 'no?*" she said, reaching for a Winston inside her Louie Vitton handbag, a gift from Jules. Yes, she smokes now, and it was the first time we saw her do it.

"*Inglesera na rin,*" one reporter observed. That's what falling in love with a congressman can do. But Assunta was quick to point out, "I came from Montessori."

"Bahid" is described as a tale of sex, wealth and power. It is directed by Joel Lamangan from a screenplay by Roy Iglesias. Assunta is Erika, a ramp and commercial model whose face is splashed on billboards. But at home with her sister Loida (Dina Bonnevie), she shares a dark secret with her father (Eddie Garcia).

It is said that it would also be the last time Assunta would engage in a passionate lovemaking on screen. In this movie, that will be with Diether Ocampo, who plays the spineless son of a wealthy and influential businessman.

Almost everybody knows by now that Assunta's relationship with her manager Manny Valera has turned from sweet to sour. Is there a possibility that they would see each other in court?

It might not reach that stage, said Assunta. "*Malapit nang maayos ang lahat* and it will make everyone look good."

What about her strained relationship with her sister Alessandra? Are they on good terms now?

"If you mean on speaking terms, not yet," Assunta replied. "I went to the premiere of her movie 'Munting Tinig' to surprise and congratulate her. I didn't sit through the screening because I had to attend another function. I heard many good things about the movie and the favorable feedback it garnered at the Toronto International Film Festival. I am very proud of her. *Magaling namang talaga ang kapatid ko.* The movie was not offered to me because they wanted someone as young as my sister.

"Regarding our relationship, I don't want to force her *naman na magbeso-beso ulit kami*. Time heals wounds. But this I can say. Where my family is concerned, *hindi ko sila kakalabanin.*"

Is Jules the kind of man her sister and mom picture him to be, mean and anything but nice?

"That is most unfair. *Awang-awa nga ako kay* Jules because they called him the evil one, a monster and a devil. God, he doesn't control me nor would I allow that if he makes an attempt.

"People don't know him the way I do. *Sobra siyang maasikaso sa akin* which is why I love him so much. *Ang* feeling *ko nga ay para na niya akong dini-diyos.* He doesn't even make an effort to change me. Everything that I do is of my own decision. But he opens my eyes to any consequences my decision might bring.

"I also like him because he is intelligent. He is such a well-rounded person."

Rumor has it that she has become unprofessional and would tape for "Bubble Gang" only when she wishes.

"As a rule, I take a leave from the sitcom whenever I am doing a movie. When I filmed 'Hubog,' I did not report (to 'Bubble Gang') for a month. This has been the arrangement ever since."

ASSUNTA/ A31

ASSUNTA de Rossi smokes, speaks English and acts seriously.

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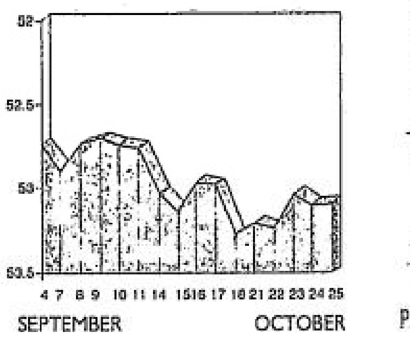

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 25, 2002

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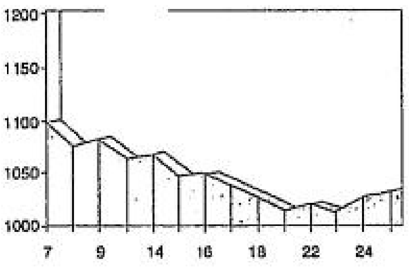
STOCK MARKET

Momentum seen building up

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE MARKET is expected to draw positive momentum this week from month-end corporate window-dressing and sporadic bargain-hunting inspired by the slight recovery in the US stock markets.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has started to firm up, closing at 1,032.09 or 0.43 percent better than a week ago as investors cheered the Senate's passage of the special purpose asset vehicle bill and the endorsement of Meralco's consolidated franchise application.

While concerns over the domestic peace and order situation remained, the arrest of alleged Abu Sayyaf members who were behind the bombings in Zamboanga and Manila also brought good tidings to the market, which hardly reacted to the government's latest budget deficit announcement.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said Friday's closing at 1,032.09 suggested that some near-term support was building up near the 1,000 level.

"However, the week's rise is viewed as a technical rebound and may extend to 1,050 level. Only a break above the 1,250 would indicate that a major reversal is at hand," Ravelas said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market would likely be bullish this week due to window-dressing activities.

He said the rebound this week would likely be led by SM Prime Holdings Inc. of retail tycoon Henry Sy, which will be opening its SM-Bicutan mall in the first week of November.

MOMENTUM/ B6

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATION giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is working on a deal to sell a 15-percent stake to US-based investment firm Newbridge Capital Inc. through the issuance of new shares, PLDT insiders said.

The sources told the INQUIRER that the company's management led by president Manuel V. Pangilinan was keen on taking in Newbridge Capital as a financial partner to boost the company's capital base, but others said the plan was creating fireworks among key shareholders.

Other sources said the proposal to issue new shares to Newbridge Capital was facing stiff opposition from other key shareholders, particularly PLDT's controlling stockholder First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong and PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, as the move would dilute their respective shareholdings.

First Pacific , which carries the single biggest voting block in the company, controls 24.47 percent of PLDT while the Cojuangco family still owns about 8 percent.

The sources said Newbridge Capital was willing to buy PLDT shares at $8.30 or P432 per share, representing a significant premium over prevailing market prices. PLDT closed on Friday at P220 per share.

The sources said that another investment group, Carlyle, was offering to buy into PLDT at $6 per share.

Although an agreement between PLDT and Newbridge has yet to be finalized, sources said First Pacific was ready to engage the company's management in a legal battle to block the deal in order to prevent its stake's dilution. First Pacific bought into PLDT at about P1,400 ($27) per share in 1998 by taking over the controlling stake in a holding firm owned by the Cojuangcos.

The rift between PLDT management and the company's principal shareholder First Pacific started when the former blocked a $616-million buy-in deal with the Gokongweis, which controls Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Under existing rules on additional listing by the Philippine Stock Exchange, an issuer is required to undertake a stocks rights offering to other shareholders only when it is planning to sell additional shares at prices significantly lower than market levels.

PLDT officials close to Pangilinan confirmed that Newbridge Capital "was among the financial investors which had expressed interest to include PLDT in their portfolio of assets." They, however, declined to provide details.

Since PLDT had already completed its refinancing activities to address debts maturing over the medium-term, the fresh cash infusion from a new investor will be used for future expansion activities.

Newbridge Capital is an investment firm engaged in making direct investments in emerging markets. Established in 1994 by the Texas-Pacific Group and Blum Capital Partners (formerly Richard C. Blum and Associates) of the United States, Newbridge Asia manages over $1.5 billion worth of capital and maintains in offices in Hong Kong, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo.

As a strategic investor, Newbridge focuses on investing in companies with sustainable long-term advantage over their com-

PLDT/ B3

RP still a laggard in infra development

By Doris C. Dumlao

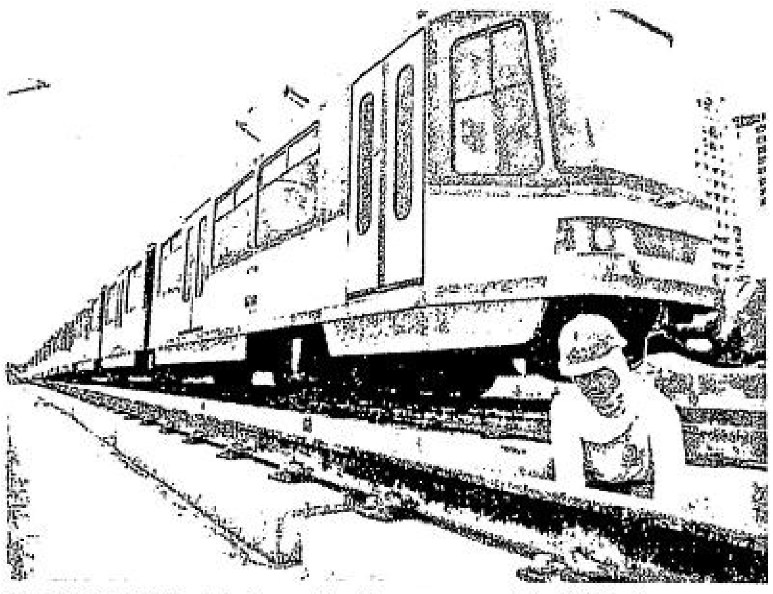
BEFORE the Asian financial turmoil erupted in 1997, General Motors Corp., the world's biggest car company, was choosing between the Philippines and Thailand as the site of a new regional manufacturing hub. The Philippine government was willing to match the fiscal incentives that Thailand offered. In the end, however, the vote went to Thailand not only because it had a stronger domestic auto market, but also because it had something that the Philippines could not easily match in years to come—a more advanced infrastructure.

B-One

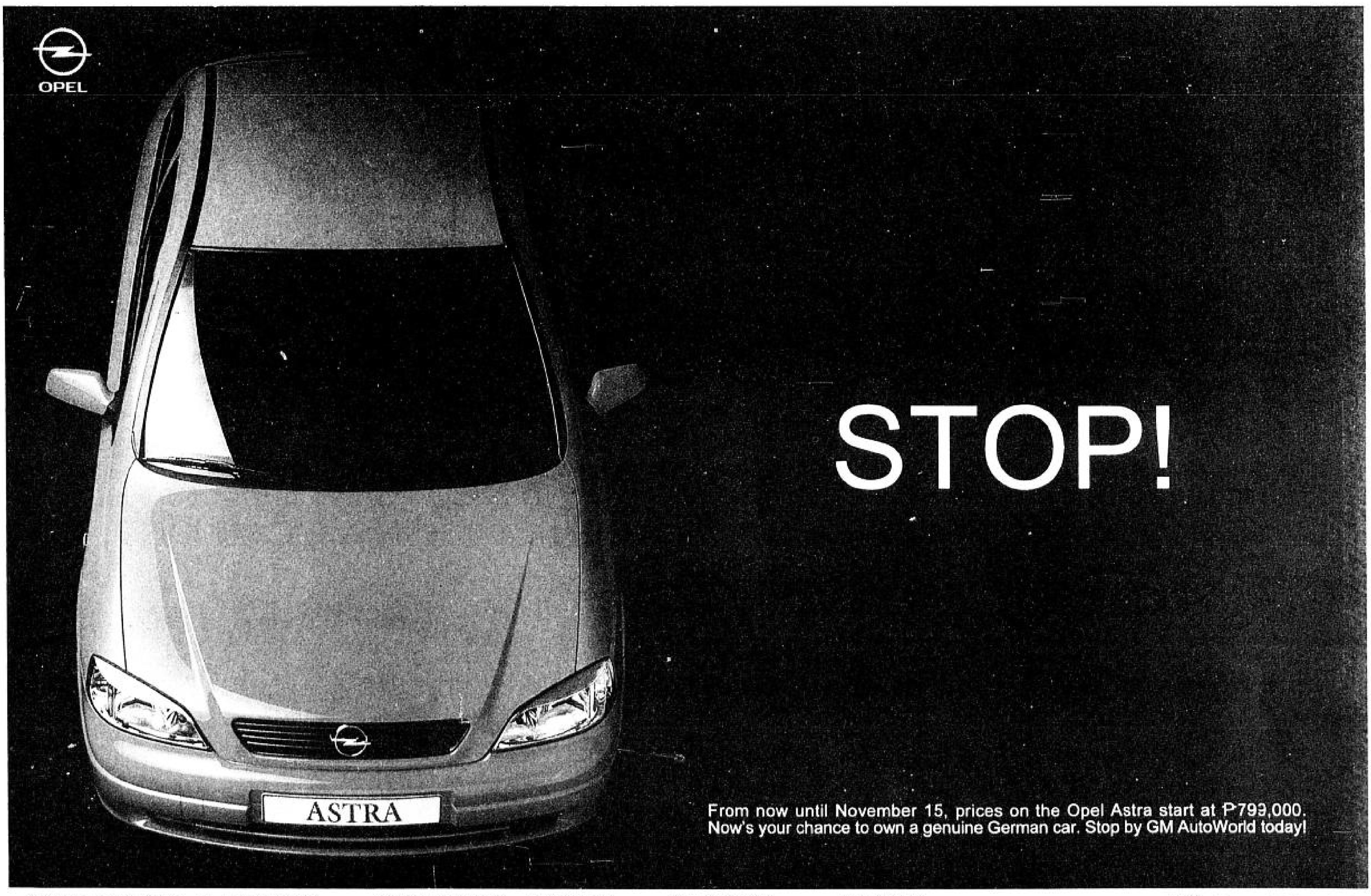
At present, the Philippines is still behind most of its crisis-affected neighbors, particularly Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea, as far as infrastructure development is concerned. This is a major reason why the country is getting a meager share of whatever little foreign direct investment is trickling back to Asia in the aftermath of the currency crisis.

To its credit, the country has taken great strides in boosting private sector interest in four most vital infrastructure areas—transportation, power, water and telecommunications—over the last decade. So far, the Philippines has been able to

RP/ B8



THE WORLD Bank believes that improvements in Philippine infrastructure, like the **MRT** system, are still not enough. /AL HANDUMON



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Why Ramon Collado should be deported

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

RAMON M. Collado, Esq., president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association Foundation (Prama), now in detention, should be deported as soon as possible. Why? Because he is an undesirable alien, that's why. It's that simple. What follows is a rewrite of my June 24 column where I made my case.

In 1985, the government launched a program to attract foreigners to retire here. The program was, and is, run by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), now the Philipine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA). In 1990, the PRA Members Association Inc. was formed. In 1994, the association became PRA Members Association Foundation Inc. (Prama).

At the start, PRA made membership in Prama mandatory at annual dues of P2,000. To help Prama take off, PRA agreed to collect the dues and remit the collections to Prama under a memorandum of agreement.

But Prama's bigger source of income was the so-called marketing fees from banks where retirees' funds were deposited. To qualify under the PRA program, a retiree must deposit with a bank $50,000 or the equivalent in other acceptable currencies. Under a memorandum of agreement with each bank, Prama received one-half of one percent of the daily outstanding deposits. These marketing fees are large enough to fight over. In 1999, Prama received over P17 million.

Under separate MOA's, PRA was also getting one-half percent of the daily outstanding deposits from the banks. This was PRA's main source of operating funds since it did not get any appropriations from Congress.

Early last year, retirees were getting restive. First, no general meeting has been called since 1995. Second, in a trumped up general meeting, the by-laws were amended to limit voting members to those invited to pay P5,000 in annual dues. Only five were so anointed, and these Magnificent Five comprised the board whose term has been extended till 2003 (The SEC has declared this illegal). Third, Prama refuses to furnish the members with copies of the audited financial statements. In fact, the auditors had this to say about the 1999 financial reports, "The accompanying December 1999 financial statements of Prama were prepared from the company's books without audit. Accordingly, we are not in a position to and do not express an opinion on the said financial statements."

Finally, the close ties between PRA and Prama were getting unstuck. Government lawyers told PRA that mandatory membership was a human rights violation. Mandatory membership had to be abolished. Then, PRA wanted to slap a 5-percent service charge on all collections of membership dues. Prama considered the amount exorbitant. The MOA was canceled. Then, Prama sued PRA for failure to remit collections.

Then the banks canceled Prama's MOAs. This cut Prama's major supply of funds. Soon after, the banks agreed to increase the fees to PRA to a full one percent.

At the center of this conflict is Prama president and chief executive officer Ramon M. Collado, Esq., a retiree from Belize (formerly British Honduras), not Spain. Members claim that Collado and the four other board members enjoy fabulous allowances. The good esquire himself fools around Metro Manila in a Mercedes Benz with a chauffeur and a bodyguard.

Collado claims the funds are intact. As of September last year, P5 million was said to have been placed in a bond/placement (a financial document I have never heard of) for the healthcare services of members over 60 years old. Another P650,000 is supposed to be invested in memorial plans for members. Collado claims the rest of the money is kept in a trust fund. No member has seen any of the documents.

Prama (Collado really) has filed suit. A friendly judge ordered PRA to reinstate the MOA and pay the fees that it would have received from the banks. This amount is computed at a whopping P29 million. The board refused to pay and the friendly judge declared the board in contempt and ordered the arrest of the members which include such government stalwarts as Manuel A. Roxas II, Richard Gordon, Rafael B. Buenaventura, Andrea Domingo, Erlinda P. Lozada and particularly PRA manager Vernette Umali-Paco. The case is on appeal.

For a man who enjoys the hospitality of this country, Collado has some terrible things to say about the Filipinos. In a letter to a complaining retiree, Collado explains why he does not give financial figures, "Due to the special characteristic that this country has and the pervading corrupt and opportunistic attitude of people and officials of the government, we are very careful in disclosing the information you requested."

Collado has insulted our government officials and the Filipino people. This makes him an undesirable alien. He should not be allowed to stay in this country one minute longer. He should be deported back to Belize—leaving the precious Mercedes Benz behind, of course. Good riddance.

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Araneta Center seeks Peza perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ARANETA Center Inc. is asking the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to grant special perks to one of the high-rise buildings under its long overdue redevelopment plan for one of the country's biggest and oldest shopping districts.

A source said Araneta Center was keen on getting information technology (IT) building status for a 7-story office tower (dubbed Cyber Offices) that would be perched on top of a P2-billion shopping mall in the north end of the 35-hectare shopping complex.

Araneta group president and chair Jorge Araneta kicked off the grand P10-billion, 20-year facelift for the Araneta Center two years ago with the refurbishment of the Araneta Coliseum and Farmers Plaza. Half of the project cost would be financed through internally generated funds with the other half to come from a prospective foreign partner.

An IT building status would enable Araneta Center to lure in tenants with Peza incentives such as income tax breaks, preferred tax rates, and duty-free importation of capital equipment.

IT activities eligible for Peza parks are software developers, content developers for multi-media applications and Internet, call centers, data encoders and transcribers, computer engineering, architectural design services, e-commerce, and research and development.

The Cyber Offices will be equipped with advanced telecom facilities and broadband technology and will be strategically located to 170 foods and retail stores, 10 movie theaters, and direct access to rail and public transport.

The Peza board approved the IT park and building incentives two years ago to encourage the development of readily available site for IT activities as part of the government's thrust to develop the country's IT capabilities. Peza is chaired by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, a scion of the Araneta family, which runs the Cubao shopping complex.

Unlike the tradition-

ARANETA/ B6

PLDT plans to sell 15% stake to US firm

From page B1

petitors and are seeking a partner who can provide financial and other significant contributions to business operations, the company said in its official website.

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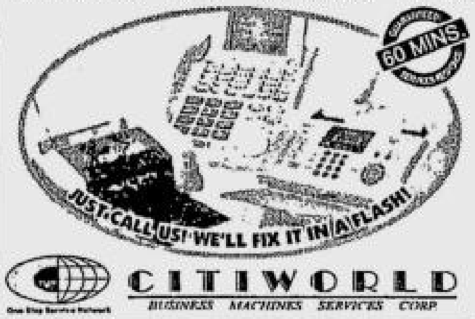
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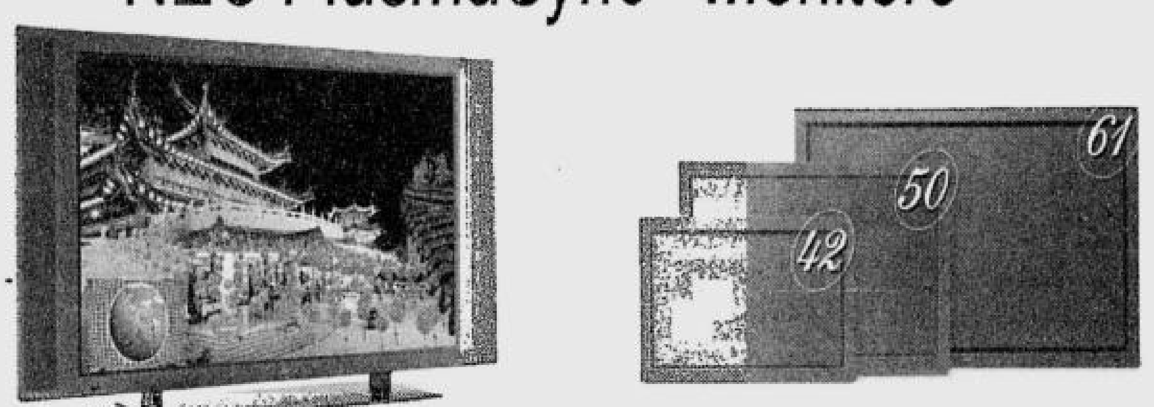

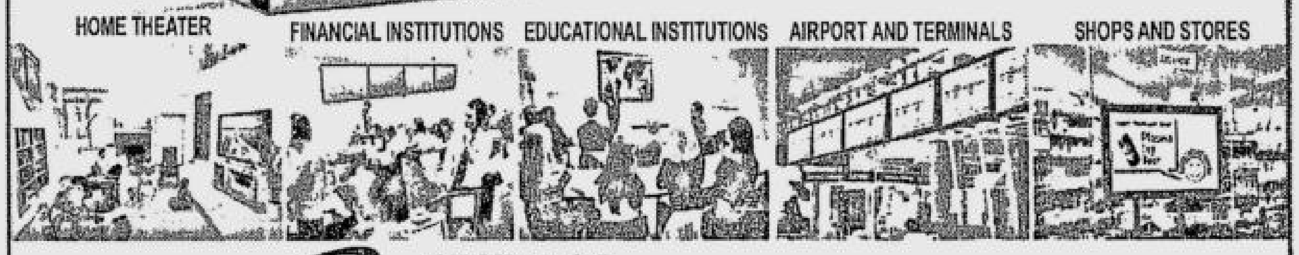

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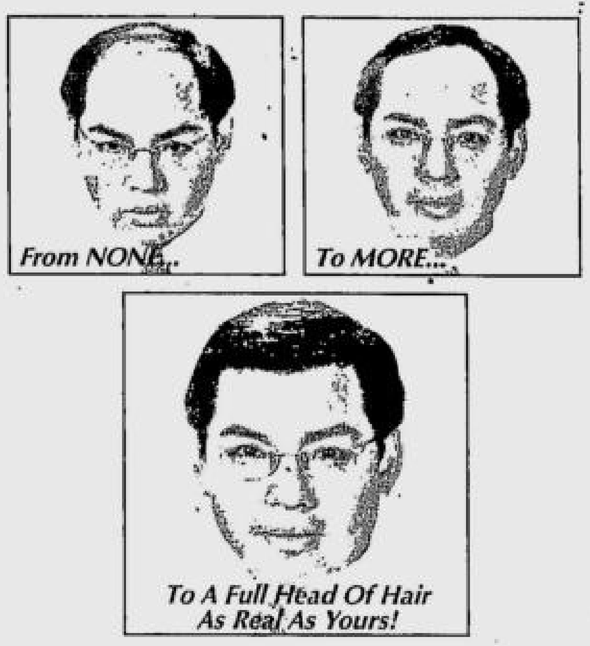
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DBM rules out further cuts in government spending

By Clarissa S. Batino

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin has ruled out further cuts in government spending during the year despite the need to trim the budget deficit to a more tolerable level.

"We cannot cut spending anymore. Everybody is now down to the minimum because of our cash programming strategy," said Boncodin in an interview.

In September, the deficit swelled to P166.437 billion, equivalent to 4.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product or more than the 4-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio target. Economic managers are now looking at a ratio of 4.5 percent-to-GDP ratio or about P180 billion.

Boncodin said that there was no way the government could resort to cutting expenditures further at this point in time to help tame the budget deficit.

The P83.5-billion leeway for expenditures as of June was all gone in October, after the government released the budget for the Christmas bonuses and cash gifts for employees, according to the budget chief.

The budget chief said her department would release in the first week of November the results of the expenditure review on all government agencies.

"We will issue the final report in November. There are indications of savings from some departments," said Boncodin even as she stressed that the savings would not be substantial.

The budget chief stressed that the government, contrary to speculations by some sectors, had not overspent despite the funding requirements of its peace and order and anti-terrorism operations particularly in Mindanao.

"There was no extraordinary spending," said the budget chief. She pointed out that even the appropriation for the hiring of 4,000 new police personnel had not been fully released.

By November, said Boncodin, the budget department would only release funds for the hiring of 2,000 new policemen. The 2002 budget appropriated P78 million for the hiring of 4,000 new police personnel.

Boncodin said her department had not been remiss in cutting unnecessary spending. She said the DBM had advised all state agencies as early as June to cut down expenditures for travel, training and operations.

Residential dev't projects post growth

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AYALA Land Inc. said it was seeing some fluttering in the real estate market this year particularly in high-end residential subdivision projects but it hastened to add that the sector has yet to recover from its swoon since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala told reporters that the property sector was "not quite in a turnaround" in 2002 as most pundits had expected early this year. The National Economic and Development Authority has projected a growth of 2.5 to 3.0 percent in the real estate sector this year, versus a one-percent contraction expected to be recorded for 2001 and the zero growth recorded in 2000.

Zobel noted that while interest rates were straddling at their lowest in a very long time, sales of high rise projects in general had remained slow while residential housing projects with leisure amenities were doing fine.

"There are parts of the market that have been showing signs of activity like the Ayala Greenfield Estates projects which we are pushing even at a time like this," Zobel said.

The project—a joint venture with the landowners, the Campos family of United Laboratories—is the second of several fully integrated communities that Ayala Land has planned for the development of a 2,500-hectare alternative growth center south of Metro Manila dubbed Ayala South.

Zobel said the project has done well since the first phase was launched a few years ago. "It's a unique property. As far as the terrain is concerned, it is one of the most beautiful pieces of land that we are fortunate to develop."

The Ayala Greenfield Estates covers over 500 hectares of land in the Mt. Makiling area and Laguna province. The project can be reached through the Calamba interchange through the Batangas exit along the South Luzon Expressway. Ayala Greenfield has initially set a total of 381 lots for sale with sizes ranging from 451 square meters to 1,833 square meters.

SEC wants hike in tender-offer threshold to 35%

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is pushing for an increase in the tender offer threshold to 35 percent from 30 percent.

The adjustment will be included in the proposed amendments to the Securities Regulation Code that the SEC will submit to the Capital Markets Development Council, a group representing economic and business leaders from the public and private sectors.

"In our case, major acts of a corporation require the approval of two-thirds of the stockholders. This means 35-percent of the stockholders can block a major decision," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista explained to reporters last week.

Bautista also pointed out that a permanent amendment would relieve the Commission from exempting acquisitions involving less than 35 percent of the voting rights of a company from the tender offer rule. The commission recently extended by another year to September 2003 the granting of tender offer rule exemption.

Currently, under section 19.1 (a) of the SRC, any person or group who intends to acquire at least 15 percent of the voting rights of a publicly held company at any one time or at least 30 percent over a one-year period must make a tender offer or an offer to acquire the stocks of all shareholders on a pro-rata basis.

The commission, however, wants to amend the SRC section to change the threshold level to 35 percent at any one time or over a one-year period. Additionally, it wants the group involved to make a tender offer for the remainder of the voting rights of the subject corporation if the acquisition of the stake is done through a privately negotiated transaction.

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EBE's baby

COCKTALES

Victor S. Agustin

FORMER Finance Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu is expanding the depth and reach of the Philippine News, the San Francisco-based weekly that he acquired from newsman/martial law activist Alex Esclamado two years ago.

According to the grapevine, EBE, noting the success of Chinese-language dailies among the ethnic communities, plans to spin off a daily tabloid to focus on the Bay Area Pinoys, as opposed to regurgitating news from Manila that has been the textbook formula of the majority of the Fil-Am papers in the mainland.

EBE has tapped recently retired Ayala spokesman Danilo Gozo as Philippine News publisher. To cut costs, Gozo continues to be based in Manila, parachuting in San Francisco only once a month for the board meeting.

On the editorial side, Gozo has rounded up ex-Journal editor Lito Gutierrez and ex-BusinessWorld's Beting Laygo Dolor, who both jumped at the chance to be living and breathing in one of the most captivating cities in the world.

Texting USA

WHEN you are traveling to the East Coast with your local cell phone, select T-Mobile (VoiceStream) as your network if you want to send and receive to/from the Philippines instantaneously.

If you allow your RP-based cell phone to automatically select the network, chances are the roaming partner that it would pick would be AT&T Mobile, especially if you are in the New York/Washington corridor. This is because AT&T Mobile has stronger signals that edge out T-Mobile's (whose partner includes Deutsche Telecom, the German partner of Globe).

The upside is you receive clearer calls from Manila; that is, if you do not mind paying $3.00++/minute in the process. The downside is that short-text messaging is still a low priority for AT&T Mobile, and text to and from Manila via that network sometimes takes one day before the text could be received.

Flying USA

NORTHWEST Airlines, whose service and food are consistently below par than those of Philippine and other Asian airlines, is trying to make up for the deficiency by undercutting fares.

This coming holidays, Northworst, ehek, Northwest, is offering a $699-round trip economy ticket to the West Coast, good up to Dec. 14 departure out of Manila.

(In contrast, economy class fare for November departure-return is being quoted at the Northwest website at $980.)

For the same promo, business class fare is being quoted at $1,548. There is no first class fare, Northwest having ripped out its first class section years ago, and gave up the market segment to the Asian carriers.

For those dreaming of a White Christmas in Chicago, New York and the East Coast, Northwest quotes an $860-roundtrip economy fare for the same period. Business class costs $1,932.

The return leg must be taken by Feb. 15, 2003.

Strangely, while its US operations encourage passengers with cheaper websites, Northwest Manila charges an extra $10 more if the tickets are purchased through the Internet.

Tip: Bring US-brand cigarettes as *pasalubong* and your cousins/friends will treat you like a long-lost rich relative. Because of punitive taxes, a pack of Marlboro in New York now costs $7 (over P370/pack or P18.50 a stick!)

Heard through the grapevine

NO less than a taipan has been snagged in the renewed VAT drive of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The taipan's "massive" under-declaration was discovered when the BIR compared the VAT declarations of the taipan's suppliers versus the taipan's own VAT input-output declaration.

The taipan has agreed to pay back the deficient VAT taxes, lest he be subjected to public humiliation, and his reputation ruined, by the government.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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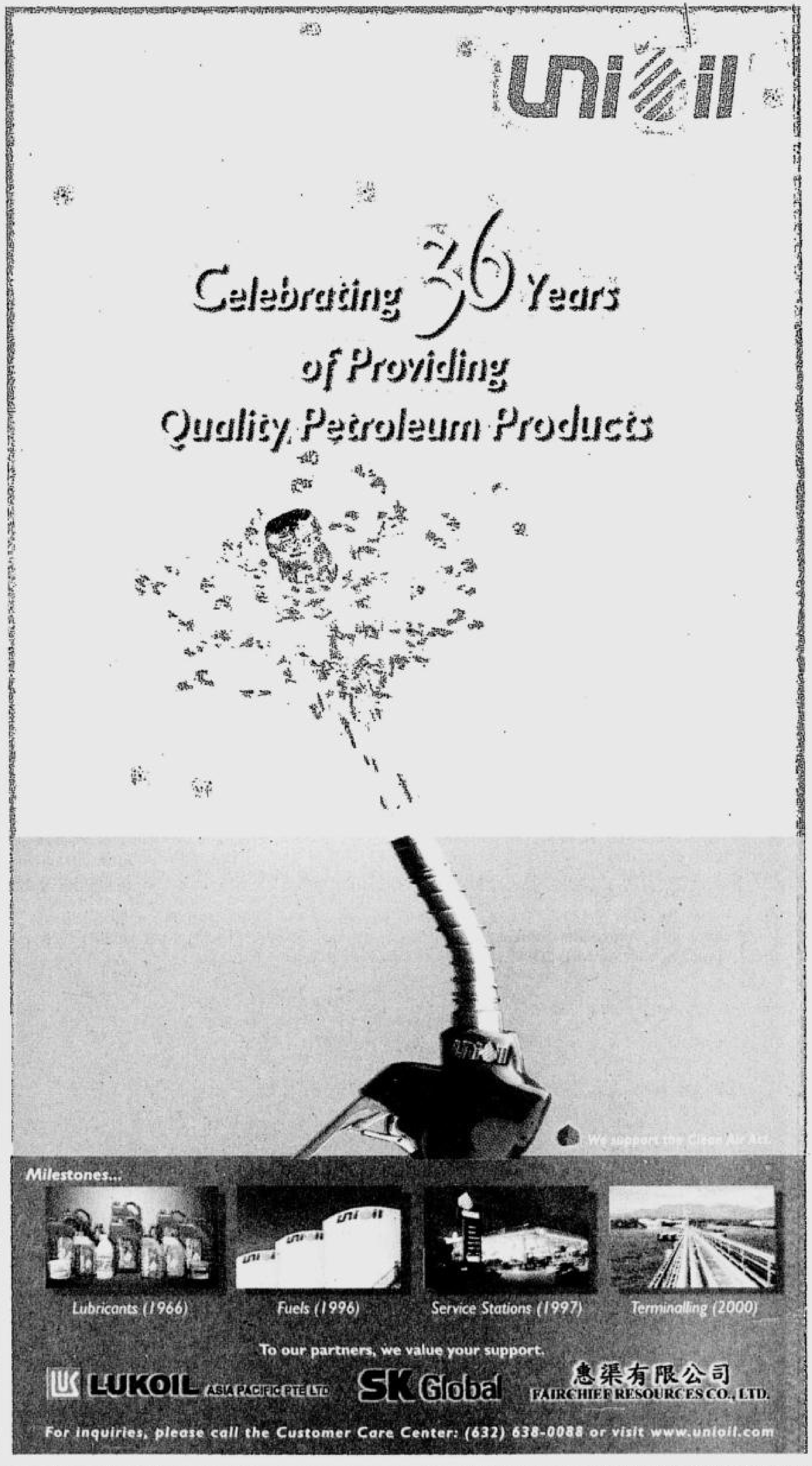
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BUYOUT FUNDING

AEV taps ₱2.5-B loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures is working out a fresh P2.5-billion syndicated loan to fund its recently concluded buyout of the 61-percent stake held by the Chiongbian and Gothong families in William, Gothong & Aboitiz (WG&A), the largest shipping company in the Philippines.

AEV chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz told reporters on Friday that the P2.5-billion loan was the only financing activity the group would pursue this year.

The loan will cover 68 percent of the P3.65 billion cost of the buyout, which will raise AEV's interest in the shipping firm from 31 to close to 92 percent. Aboitiz said details of the loan were still being finalized.

The buyout involves the purchase of the shares held by Carlos Gothong Lines Inc. and the Chiongbian family's William Lines Inc. at P3.98 per share. Based on the terms of the buyout agreement, half of the purchase amount was payable in cash on closing date and the remainder was payable over five years with interest fixed at 12 percent and a one-year grace on principal.

The leveraged buyout resolved the shareholder squabble in WG&A. Industry sources earlier said the Chiongbian and Gothong groups had teamed up in an attempt to oust Enrique Aboitiz as president of WG&A.

AEV is a diversified holding company that maintains interests in power, banking, food, and transport.

WG&A is the most profitable shipping company in the Philippines, operating 23 vessels nationwide. It is also the largest operator of passenger and cargo ferry service.

WG&A was formed in 1996 from a merger of William Lines, Carlos Gothong Lines, and Aboitiz Shipping Corp.

Momentum seen building up

From page B1

Roxas said the market would test the resistance level at 1,150 while support remained at 1,010 to 1,015.

Meanwhile, BPI Securities said bargain hunting would likely be tentative due to worries that the budget deficit might trigger another review of the country's credit rating and push interest rates higher. It said jitters over the depreciation of the peso, security concerns and the possible war in Iraq also continued to haunt the market.

"The market still needs a series of good news on domestic economic and corporate earnings growth to sustain investors' interest and reverse negative market sentiment," BPI Securities said.

"Corporate earnings for the third quarter will likely set the tone for the coming weeks. The market is still oversold and prices are at low enough levels to warrant accumulation but we still advise caution," it said.

Philstocks.net agreed that the market might carry over its positive momentum to the shortened trading sessions next week in the absence of another major negative surprise and the generally upbeat third-quarter earnings results.

"Still, the momentum is slow as investors remain concerned and cautious. It will take a while for the market to build up strength. There are already encouraging signs. One such sign is the market's ability to shrug off gloomy news such as last week's deficit report. Expectations may have reached a low point, where sellers who could sell have already sold out. The market has priced in a lot of bad news, and we are now potentially seeing a change in sentiment," it said.

But Philstocks.net said it was still premature to conclude a bottoming out for the market. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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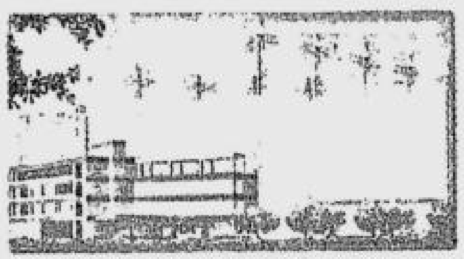

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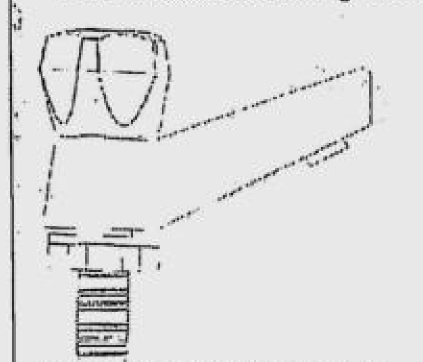
W A R N I N G ! ! !

MR. LOW HAN SIN is the inventor of an invention entitled "Valve Mechanism", while **WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD** is a leading manufacturer of bathroom and-kitchen fixtures and is the owner of the designs of faucets utilizing the said "valve mechanism" invention. The exclusive distributor of WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD in the Philippines is TAMSONS ENTERPRISES, INC. located at 2nd Floor, Singson Building, Plaza Moraga, 1006 Manila.

MR. LOW HAN SIN's "valve mechanism" invention is the subject of Philippine Patent Application Serial No. 51031 and of several other patent applications and registrations all over the world. Moreover, the designs of WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BDH's products, particularly faucets utilizing the "valve mechanism" invention, enjoy copyright protection pursuant to Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines. Below are the illustrations of the designs of WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD's faucets utilizing MR. LOW HAN SIN's "valve mechanism" invention:



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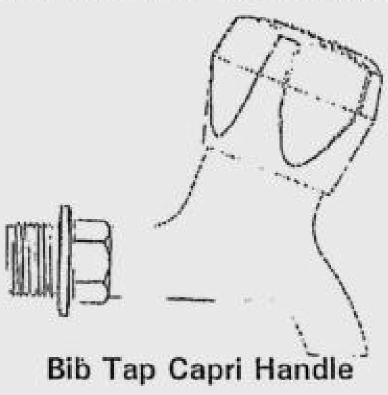

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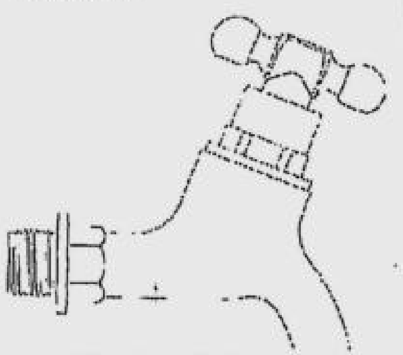

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The public is warned against buying faucets unlawfully utilizing the "valve mechanism" invention of MR. LOW HAN SIN and illegally imitating the design and appearance of WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD's faucets. These imitation products are of a notable inferior quality. Please note that the products illustrated above must bear the "WATERTEC" trademark.

All establishments engaged in the sale and/or distribution of faucets unlawfully utilizing the "valve mechanism" invention of MR. LOW HAN SIN and illegally imitating the design and appearance of WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD's faucets are enjoined to cease and desist from offering for sale, selling and/or distributing said products. Violators shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

If you suspect any establishment which is engaged in the sale and/or distribution of these imitation products, please contact the undersigned Law Firm.

VILLARAZA & ANGANGCO
Philippine Counsel for
MR. LOW HAN SIN and
WATERTEC (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD
5th Floor, LTA Building
118 Perea Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. No.: (632) 818-98-36
Fax No.: (632) 840-08-63
E-mail: ip.department@cvclaw.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	10,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	328,800
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	1,460
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	27	27	297,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	146,600
Philippine National Bank	23	24	23	24	18,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	12	11.5	12	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	12,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1220	1215	1215	480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	970	980	970	980	5,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	1,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.42	1,150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	402.5	402.5	397.5	397.5	66,930
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	1,600,000
ISM Communications Corp..	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,800,000
Piltel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	770,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	224	224	219	220	223,020
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	17	15	17	24,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22	22.25	460,300
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.38	544,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	451,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	99,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	12,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	6,000
RFM Corp..	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56	742,500
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60.5	59.5	60.5	143,800
Universal Robina Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	60,851,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4,333,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.26	24,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.12	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	2,770,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.1	0.14	810,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	20,700
Ionics Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.2	2.2	118,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	360,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	6,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	2,020,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	420,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.5	2.5	4,527,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	160,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.7	1.72	1.6	1.6	95,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	190,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	845,600
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	.10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	14,886,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.1	0.1	7,080,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.96	4,800,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	290,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	85,419,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,982,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	190,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	1,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0036	0.0024	0.0036	35,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	935,230	34,314,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,546,650	384,005,305.00
PRO	392,461,107	271,431,280.33
Mining	1,410,000	75,200.00
OIL	45,840,000	177,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	539,192,987	690,003,435.33

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	403.84	UP 4.96
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,429.16	UP 4.77
PRO	459.05	UP 0.28
Mining	1,119.20	UP 8.60
OIL	1.34	UP 0.15
All Shares Index	633.89	UP 1.97
Composite	1,032.09	UP 4.50

NO. OF ADVANCES: 34; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 1,226

CURRENCIES

Oct. 25, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.022390	1.000000	53.0310
Japan	Yen	0.008218	0.008038	0.4263
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589817	1.555000	82.4632
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131096	0.128225	6.7999
Switzerland	Franc	0.681412	0.666489	35.3446
Canada	Dollar	0.653159	0.638855	33.8791
Singapore	Dollar	0.574118	0.561545	29.7793
Australia	Dollar	0.568026	0.555586	29.4633
Bahrain	Dinar	2.712631	2.653224	140.7031
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272622	0.266652	14.1408
Brunei	Dollar	0.572191	0.559660	29.6793
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023476	0.022962	1.2177
UAE	Dirham	0.278375	0.272279	14.4392
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.000818	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.978100	51.8696
Argentina	Real	0.283998	0.277778	14.7308
Brazil	Real	0.263570	0.257798	13.6713
Denmark	Kroner	0.134554	0.131607	6.9793
India	Rupee	0.021158	0.020695	1.0975
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269086	0.263193	13.9574
Mexico	New Peso	0.102572	0.100326	5.3204
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496982	0.486098	25.7783
Norway	Kroner	0.135429	0.132463	7.0246
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017402	0.017021	0.9026
South Africa	Rand	0.101197	0.098981	5.2491
Sweden	Kroner	0.109570	0.107170	5.6833
Syria	Pound	0.023131	0.022624	1.1998
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029463	0.028818	1.5282
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000715	0.000699	0.0371

Araneta Center . . .

From page B3

al economic zones, only locators would be eligible for incentives as the Peza decided not to grant developers any perks on fears that all vacant buildings in the Makati and Ortigas would apply to get the perks.

The IT parks approved by Peza so far include Eastwood City Cyberpark of Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc.; E-Square Information Technology Park of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.; Northgate Cyberzone of the Filinvest Group; RCBC Plaza IT Park of RCBC Realty Corp.; Filinvest Asia Corp.'s PBCom Tower in Makati; Bases Conversion Development Authority's Bonifacio Information Special Technology Zone in Taguig; Cebu Property Ventures and Development Corp.'s Cebu Civic and Trade Center (CCCTC) in Lapu-Lapu City, and First Centro Inc.'s Cebu Cybertown IT Park in Cebu City. So far, only CCTC has been approved by Malacañang.

An electrifying jump in Meralco

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

DEAR readers, you may be wondering why there was no article last Monday. Last Thursday night, I went to dinner with a dear friend, dear meaning expensive. I ordered a hot dog, not realizing that the owner was an Ilocano, and I think he gave me the real thing. About 3 hours later, I developed a fever and abdominal pains. I went to the nearest hospital, Chicago Hope. The doctor jabbed me in my right side and when I yelled, he said, "He has acute appendix." I am not afraid of most things but I am terrified by surgery so I lay there petrified, waiting for the gurney and the anesthetist. The nurse put an IV tube into me. I struggled but it was all in vein.

Nothing happened for the next 2 hours except for nurses taking my temperature and monitoring my blood pressure. From time to time, they would take samples of my blood to check my electric lights. Eventually, I lost my patients, just like the hospital does, and asked when they were going to take out my appendix. "Why?" asked the nurse, "there's nothing wrong with it." "But I heard the doctor say I had acute appendix," I said. "No," replied the nurse smiling, "he said you had a cute appendix. The cutest he has ever seen." It turned out that I had food poisoning and spent the next 3 days in bed, resolving to stick to McDonalds in future.

As President Macapagal-Arroyo has a great sex life, she has been offered a part to replace Jessica Parker in Sex and the City in 2004. The President stated that Mike was the most important man in her life. Unfortunately, a trainee journalist, who was bad at spelling, recorded it as impotent, and the editor did not spot the error. The poor girl was fired and has since been identified as a leading member of the Abu Sayyaf. If the opinion polls are correct, in 2004 we will all be saying, "Salamat Poe."

My daughter went on a field trip to the CCP to see a play about a boy whose father was a carpenter. You no doubt guessed it was Pinocchio. Every time he told a lie, his nose grew. In Sweden, they have a slightly different version. Every time he told a lie, his nuts grew, and his name was Pistachio.

It's time for limericks:

There was a young fellow named Dice
Who remarked, "They say bigamy's nice.
Even two are a bore,
I prefer three or four,
For the plural of spouse, it is spice."

There was a young man called Dan Dare
Enjoying his girl on the stair;
On the forty fourth stroke,
The banister broke
So he finished her off in mid air.

The really bad news is that the budget deficit grew like Pinocchio's nose to P166 billion. That is P36 billion above the target for the whole year, and we still have 3 months to go. The government reluctantly revised it upward to P155 billion but that too, has been left well behind. Months ago, I predicted P180 billion, which looked daring at the time, but now it appears that P200 billion is likely. So we have to keep on borrowing and I fail to see how the Treasury can stop interest rates from rising from their historically low rates.

I struck oil again on Wednesday, when I wrote a long article about MERB saying that, technically, it was grossly oversold, and should be bought at the first signs of stability. In anticipation, I bought 200,000 shares at P19.50 and P19.75 for discretionary clients of Abacus Securities who subscribe to my independent newsletter. On Thursday, they were all sold at P22.50 for a one-day profit of P3 a share. It was again pure intuition, based on 50 years of experience, but I was lucky because JP Morgan had run out of stock. With the big seller out of the way, all the foreign brokers rushed in to buy a net P16 million worth of stock. This is not a large amount numerically, but it is sizeable compared to net turnover, which excludes cross sales.

As a technician, I do not attend analysts' briefings, but as the Meralco theater is so close to Tektite, I shall be attending this one. I feel there is still money to be made from this stock and I will have a clearer picture by Monday evening. Unfortunately, this will be too late for my article, but not for subscribers who will receive a special report on Tuesday morning.

I do not know if my article had anything to do with it, but the PSE is planning to abolish the documentary stamp tax, which in the case of stocks can reach astronomical proportions. I was hoping they would also abolish the 0.5-percent sales tax, as this is supposed to replace capital gains tax, which does not apply to anyone outside my inner circle. There is also pressure to get rid of the 4-

MR. BEARBULL/ B9

Equitable PCI to issue ₱10B in capital notes to foreign bank

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, one of the country's largest lenders, plans to issue P10 billion worth of capital notes to a foreign investment bank if they can agree on pricing and other terms, sources familiar with the matter said.

If talks between the two parties would succeed, the local bank intends to write off P16 billion representing the goodwill it recorded in its books after Equitable Banking Corp. merged with PCI Commercial Bank three years ago.

The goodwill arising from the merger, which refers to the excess of the total acquisition costs over the fair value of the net assets acquired amounting to P17.6 billion, is being amortized on a straight-line basis over 40 years starting Sept. 2, 1999.

The goodwill write-off will allow the bank to realize higher profit since the yearly amortization of the goodwill has adversely affected the bank's earnings capability.

According to the Equitable PCI Bank's financial statements, its goodwill account as of end-2001 amounted to P16.5 billion, net of accumulated amortization of P1.02 billion in 2001 and P586.17 million in 2000.

The sources said that the P10 billion in capital notes, which qualifies as tier 2 capital, would probably have a maturity of seven to 10 years. It will allow the bank to meet regulatory capital requirements despite a possible goodwill write-off.

Even if the issuance of the P10 billion in capital notes to the foreign investment banks would not push through, Equitable PCI Bank is planning to go ahead with a plan to raise as much as P6 billion in subordinated debt. The source said it could be denominated in peso or dollar, or a combination of the two currencies.

Equitable PCI has tapped Deutsche Bank to conduct the third-party requirements and serve as arranger and market maker.

Juat said the BSP allowed banks to raise tier 2 capital equivalent to 25 percent of it's current capital base.

Earlier, Equitable PCI Bank president Rene Buenaventura said the capital buildup would be pursued in late third quarter or in early fourth quarter.

"We will sell about P6 billion of tier 2 notes maturing in five years through our branches so we can retail them. We are still deciding on the currency mix," said the bank president.

He added that the tier 2 notes would not be sold to institutional investors.

Star TV denies NTC claims on Destiny row

INTERNATIONAL cable provider Star TV denied claims by National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) officer in charge Armi Jane R. Borje that it had broken a promise to give the regulatory agency "specific reasons" for its decision not to renew the contract of cable operator Destiny Cable Inc.

In a letter to the NTC, Star regional director Charles Pollard said that for as long as there was legal action pending between Destiny and Star's Hong Kong-based programmer, he would be constrained in what he could tell the NTC.

"I am advised that I cannot prejudice a fair hearing of the case in court by addressing and answering the points in the NTC's letters at this time," Pollard said in his letter to Borje.

Pollard said that Star would address the points raised against it. "At hearing we will show why, based on the facts and the law, Destiny's allegations have no merit".

Pollard also clarified that Star had no equity interest in Beyond Cable, "nor is there any deferred or contingent right to acquire, or to convert debt to acquire, such interest or control in Beyond Cable."

Beyond Cable is the company that was established from the merger of Sky Cable and Home Cable.

He added that Star and/or News Corp. , Star's parent company, also had no involvement in the recent appointment of Euan Fannell as the chief executive adviser of Sky/Home Cable.

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RP still a laggard in infra development

METRO Manila's mass transit system is considered not extensive enough.

From page B1

generate about $26 billion worth of investments in infrastructure covering about 111 projects in these four sectors since the build-operate-transfer law was passed in 1993, the World Bank estimated in its development policy review in May.

As a result, more roads and urban mass transit systems have been built. Access to basic utilities like power and water has improved for many households, even those living in rural areas. Gone were the frequent power outages that soured business confidence in the early 1990s, as private groups found it lucrative to invest in power generation through BOT deals with the government. Also, people no longer have to wait for years to get a telephone line, and the ordinary man on the street is most likely to carry a cellular phone.

These improvements in infrastructure, however, are still not good enough to ensure a competitive footing in the global map. Based on the annual competitiveness ranking issued by the World Economic Forum for 2001, the Philippines ranked 54th in current competitiveness, which measures an economy's effective utilization of current stock of resources. It stood only one notch better than Indonesia (55th), while other emerging economies in Asia enjoyed significant leads: Malaysia (37th), Thailand (38th), China (47th) and India (36th).

On the other hand, based on the WEF's growth competitive ranking, which measures an economy's underlying prospects for growth over the next five years, the Philippines ranked 48th, much better than Indonesia (64th) but way behind Malaysia (30th), Thailand (33rd), China (39th) and India (37th).

The World Bank, one of the country's biggest multilateral lender, said the country must shape up, as many more developing countries are reforming and aggressively chasing investments and markets.

"Private sector growth will depend on the Philippines developing a positioning that is attractive to investors—a very open and stable investment environment and high-quality infrastructure," the bank said in its country assistance strategy report for 2003-2005.

Transport sub-sector

Based on government statistics, the road density of the Philippines is much higher than those of other developing countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Its total road network as of 2000 stood at 201,994 kilometers, but most of these roads suffer in terms of quality, with the paved portion reaching only 21 percent.

About 85 percent of the total Philippine road network is composed of provincial, city, municipal and barangay roads falling under the responsibility of local government units. Since the LGUs face inadequate financial and technical resources, these roads, particularly those in rural areas, face neglect. The reason cited by the government is that only very few barangay roads carry substantial traffic to justify paving.

The road-deficient regions are mostly outside the National Capital Region, such as war-stricken Mindanao, the Cordillera Autonomous Region and other less economically developed areas.

According to the 2002 World Development Indicators, the Philippines' paved road ratio of 21 percent was way behind Thailand's 97.5 percent, Malaysia's 75.8 percent, South Korea's 74.5 percent and even Indonesia's 46.3 percent.

Traffic congestion in Metro Manila and other major urban centers like Cebu and Davao is also a big concern for every one. In Metro Manila, for instance, travel time through road transport has become unpredictable, and the mass railway transit system is not extensive enough to ease the heaviest traffic corridors. As such, the government has declared that it will prioritize rail transport over road transport to more effectively handle mass traffic movements, but the expansion of the MRT system has still been very slow, with only two lines—Monumento-Baclaran and West Avenue-Taft—currently in operation.

Meanwhile, port and air transport institutions also need to be restructured to support the country's increasing integration with the global market. The key issue in port transport is capacity constraint while in air transport, the need to modernize airport safety aids and facilities.

Power sub-sector

In the power sector, the BOT power generation projects completed during the Ramos administration has boosted the country's electrification level. Aggressive research and exploration initiatives have likewise raised the energy self-reliance level of the country's energy mix from 40.8 percent in 1998 to 45 percent in 2000.

About 65 percent of households in the country now have access to power, significantly better than Indonesia's 39 percent but still unimpressive compared to Malaysia's 92 percent, Thailand's 87 percent and Korea's 97 percent.

The country's largest infrastructure development project to date is the $4.5-billion Malampaya gas-to-power project, which started operations this year. Over the next 20 years, the government expects $8 billion in revenues from this natural gas project, which was built to cover 20 percent of the country's power requirements.

Based on the Medium Term Development Plan drawn up by the National Economic and Development Authority, the country also aims to reduce its power systems losses with the passage of Republic Act No. 7832, or the Anti-Pilferage of Electricity and Theft of Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Act of 1994. The country's average systems loss for utilities and electric cooperatives is still relatively high at 15 percent of total output compared to Malaysia and Thailand's 8 percent.

In this regard, utility companies, such as publicly listed Manila Electric Co., are trying to reduce systems losses by redesigning and rehabilitating old transmission and distribution lines. Non-technical losses are also being reduced through stricter monitoring and apprehension of pilferers of electricity.

The Electric Power Industry Restructuring Act passed last year is also expected to generate fresh investments and relieve the national government from the huge capital requirements of the National Power Corp. The law mandates the unbundling of the generation, transmission, distribution, and supply businesses in the industry toward the establishment of wholesale and retail markets. The generation and supply businesses shall be subject to market competition while wire businesses (transmission and distribution) will be left as natural monopolies but subject to regulation to safeguard consumer interest.

Water sub-sector

The Philippines has fared better in providing water access to its population, although the current concern is how viable the financial operations of water concessionaires are.

About 92 percent of people living in urban areas and 80 percent of those in rural areas have access to water, a respectable level compared to Asean neighbors. Malaysia's urban water access as a percentage to population is 95 percent while Thailand, Korea and Indonesia's levels are 89 percent, 97 percent and 91 percent, respectively, while the rural water access rates are: 65 percent for Indonesia, 94 percent for Malaysia, 77 percent for Thailand and 71 percent for Korea.

In Metro Manila, two private concessionaires—the Lopezes' Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Ayalas' Manila Water Co. Inc.—are operating the service areas of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. The privatization of the MWSS' operations was hailed as a success, until the Lopez-owned concessionaire, which absorbed bulk of the system's foreign debts, was badly hit by the freefall of the peso against the US dollar after the Asian crisis.

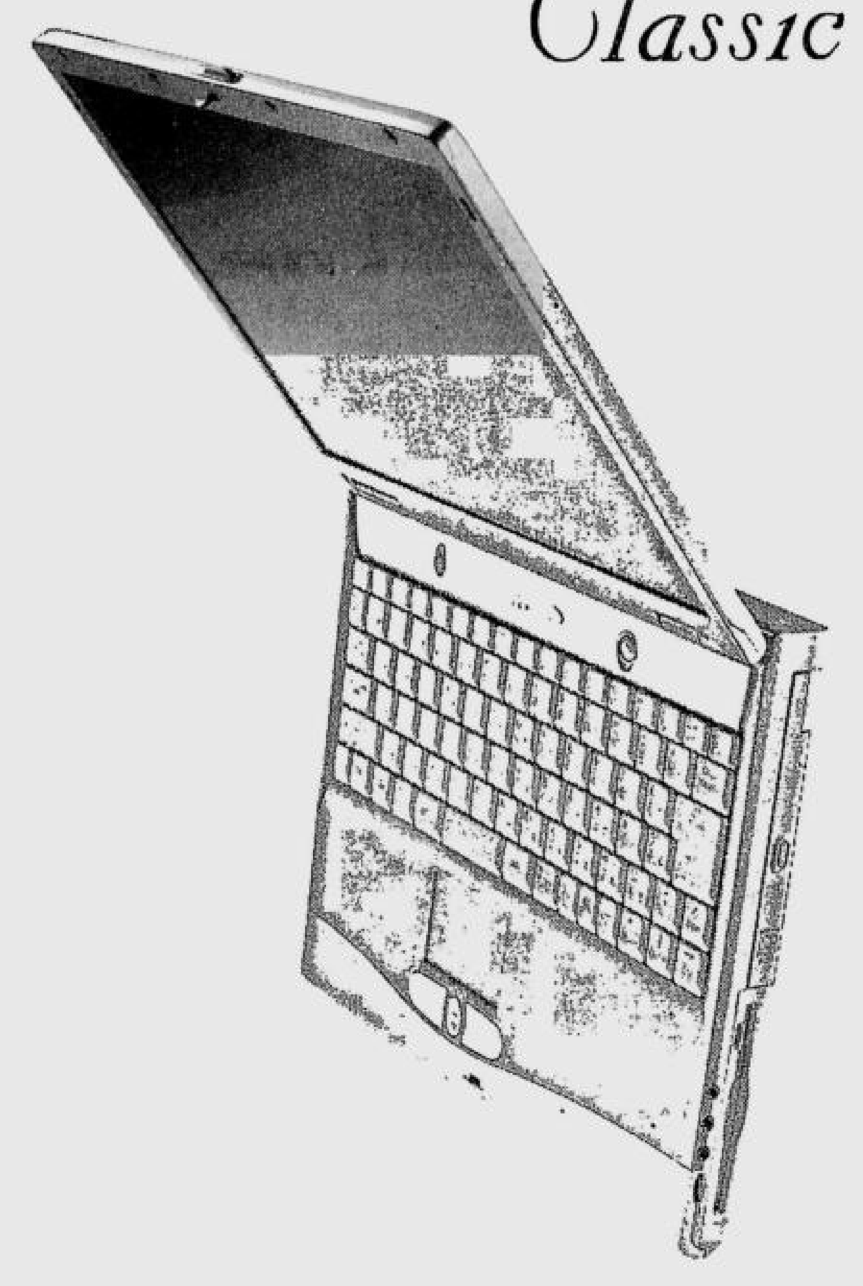
Water supply outside Metro Manila is being handled by the respective water districts, the Local Water Utilities Administration, the LGUs or some private groups.

Although new BOT projects being pursued outside Metro Manila will enhance supply, the World Bank said certain fundamental problems are not being addressed: inadequate investment; inefficient operations; and, deficiencies in maintenance, management of the distribution systems, billings and collection.

Telecommunications

There is of course a bright spot among the generally problematic infrastructure sub-sectors in the Philippines. Telecommunication is indisputably the most viable for private sector participation. In fact, the telecom sector in the country has always been private sector-led and the government no longer sees the need to include it in its list of concerns under the medium-term agenda on infrastructure.

The deregulation of the telecommunication industry in 1995, which dismantled the monopoly previously enjoyed by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has improved access to fixed-line telephones in the country. While PLDT has remained the dominant carrier, the emergence of other players has forced it to improve its services. There are now 40 telephone lines for every 1,000 people in the Philippines, better than Indonesia's average of 31 but lower than Thailand's 92 and Malaysia's 199. *(To be continued)*



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Rates seen steady even if deficit soars

By Clarissa S. Batino

EVEN at 4.5 percent of gross domestic product and even if tensions in the Middle East lead to higher fuel prices, the government's budget deficit will unlikely jack up interest and inflation rates, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has assured.

"The central bank did a sensitivity analysis in relation to inflation. Based on the study, a 4.5-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio can be absorbed by the system without the Monetary Board having to do anything with interest rates," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a news briefing.

"The sensitivity analysis even factored in the possible uptick in oil prices in the next six months," Buenaventura said.

Last week, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho admitted that the government's budget deficit could spike to 4.5 percent of GDP.

GDP refers to the monetary value of all goods and services produced by an economy over a specified period. It includes consumption, government purchases, investments, and exports minus imports.

Camacho announced last week that the budget deficit had swelled to P166.4 billion as of end-September, and that a 4-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio target for the year was no longer achievable.

Most analysts and private sector leaders like Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club believe that the budget deficit could widen to between P200 billion and P220 billion by year's end.

Despite the room to be flexible, however, Buenaventura reiterated the need for the country's economic managers to review their macroeconomic targets for 2003, especially those on the budget deficit, GDP and inflation.

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura: It is important to set realistic goals.

"It is important to set realistic goals so we will retain our credibility," he stressed. "In that way, we are not glued to numbers at a time when the situation has changed."

This early, the government is already under pressure to raise its budget deficit target for 2003 to at least P160 billion.

Some policymakers are also pushing for a delay in the government's zero-deficit target, saying this may have to be set back by at least two years.

Mr. Bearbull . . .

From page B7

percent tax on IPOs as this is a major deterrent to going public.

The cost of trading here is too high, two commissions plus VAT, plus the sales tax and spread. In the United States, you can trade any amount of stock on line for as little as $7 per transaction through Datek.com, or for just a little more, through a broker who will advise you. If the PSE will do away with the sales tax, I feel sure that investors would be encouraged to chance their arm on short-term trading, and turnover would increase.

You can contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com but do not ask for a report on MER. Ask your broker. Next week is Halloween, witches on a Friday, so I will not be writing about the market. Instead I will share some paranormal experiences more in keeping with this holiday.

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The MAPECON Legacy

1961 – Filipino inventor Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr. (G.O. "JC" Jun Catan) founded the Manila Pest Control (MAPECON) in Manila, using his own pesticide inventions from indigenous materials. JC, an entomologist - a graduate of the University of Philippines (UP) - was practically alone, and MAPECON was only a single-proprietorship outfit with a capital of only 400 pesos (approximately US$ 100 based on the exchange rate at that time). Its motto: "Do creative, honest work."

1962 – JC married Nancy Russell, an American whom JC met in Vermont-New England-while he was on a study tour as a 4-H-Club scholar in the U.S.. Since then, they have been together, living in the Philippines; Nancy has been JC's active partner in all family, business and spiritual endeavors. JC and Nancy have three children and ten grandchildren.

1963 – MAPECON opened branches in Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao and Dumaguete.

1964 – MAPECON opened a branch in Jakarta, Indonesia. This year, it also signed a 20-year contract there, which, among others, became the government's basis for giving MAPECON mandates in Health Circular 155 and Presidential Proclamation 990. Thereafter, MAPECON put up branches in all Pertamina and Caltex areas of operations in Indonesia.

– MAPECON, in a U.S. study, was used as a case model for 12 prestigious American Universities, including Harvard, through the report of an international agency, The American Universities Field Staff, authored by Albert Ravenholt.

1965-67 – MAPECON put up branches in Thailand and Singapore. It also signed a franchise pest-control contract with Caltex Pacific in Indonesia for the pest-control system for its four Pekanbaru drilling sites.

Jun & Nancy Catan

1970 – JC was elected No. 1 as a delegate to the 1970-72 Philippine Constitutional Convention, representing the 1st District of Negros Oriental. Among the 318 delegates, he emerged No. 4 in the number of resolutions and amendments filed (104), with 69 adopted in the final draft. He was a member of the 8-man Convention Planning Advisory Group (CPAG) which met twice a week with the ConCon Chairman - Pres. Diosdado Macapagal. JC was responsible in conceptualizing and adopting into the convention the PERT-CPM (Program Evaluation Review Technique - Critical Path Method) and the Corporate Organizational Approach in Constitution-making, where time and motion studies were applied. He was also a member of the Science and Technology (S&T) Committee and sponsored most of the S&T provisions into the 1970 Constitution, which [illegible] the working draft for the 1986 Constitution.

197[illegible] – [illegible] TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) Awardee. He [illegible] also got a highest [illegible] AWARD this year.

1980-83/1986 – JC [illegible] the Filipino Inventors Society (FIS). He [illegible] for a total of 7 years during [illegible] organization in the country at the time.
Later, [illegible] organized [illegible] Brotherhood (FIS-CB, Inc.), a duly-r[illegible] inventors' organization [illegible] lacked prominence.
Eventually, [illegible] Filipino Inventors' Federation (FILINFED), the umbrella organization for the different Filipino [illegible] ors' organizations in the entire country

1994 — JC was recipient of the annual "Most Outstanding Inventor of the Philippines Award" of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). He has since been elevated to the DOST's Hall of Fame for several award-winning inventions.

41 years without any human or environment poisoning case against any MAPECON pesticide, as compared to foreign pesticides that are being dumped in the Philippines!

1999 — MAPECON's H.I. (Household Insecticide) won the Silver Medal in the International Invention Contest in Geneva, Switzerland, defeating about 1,000 invention entries from different countries.

2002 — JC was awarded "The Most Outstanding Entomologist-Entrepreneurship" by the Philippine Association of Entomologists(PAE).
— JC was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Agriculture of the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC).
— JC, although the oldest player in the contest, emerged as the champion in the Gary Cooper Tennis Tournament of the historic Philippine Columbian Club (PCA) in Manila.
OFW News, an international publication for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) has listed JC as No. 6 in its "51 Ways To Be Proud As A Filipino."

TODAY — MAPECON Phils. is a multimillion-peso Filipino corporation with about 400 employees, 26 branches, 38 patented inventions, and a subsidiary corporation, the MAPECON GREEN CHARCOAL PHILS., INC. (MGCPI), producer of Activated Carbon and Green Charcoal, export-quality product recycled from biodegradable wastes.

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BIR sets crackdown on prepaid card tax cheats

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to issue in two weeks a new regulation cracking down on providers and distributors of prepaid phone cards suspected of stealing from the government some P6 billion worth of tax payments.

"We intend to issue the revenue regulation very soon. The impact to us of this regulation is that we will be getting the tax payments earlier," BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno told reporters on Friday.

The new regulation forces providers and distributors to declare sales once their prepaid cards are sold, not when these are used.

Government regulators came up with this rule after they discovered that hundreds of prepaid card distributors were understating their revenues to cheat on their value-added and income taxes.

The Department of Finance has estimated that the government is losing as much as P6 billion in value-added taxes yearly to telephone companies and their distributors because of leaks in income and VAT payments from prepaid phone cards.

Once issued, the new BIR regulation will lay to rest questions among makers and distributors of prepaid cards as to whether to declare sales at the point-of-sale or only when the cards are used.

The internal revenue bureau has determined that prepaid card providers and distributors are selling goods, not services.

"When you sell goods, you declare these once they are sold. When you sell a service, the earnings are booked once the service is rendered. This is where the conflict usually arises as some prepaid card makers and distributors believe they sell a service and not goods," Parayno said.

He said the bureau would give the affected companies opportunities to react on the planned circular.

Most of the big cellular phone companies, which account for more than three-fourths of prepaid cards sold in the country, have recognized that what they are selling are goods that should be booked at the point-of-sale.

Also substantial nowadays are prepaid Internet and landline phone cards

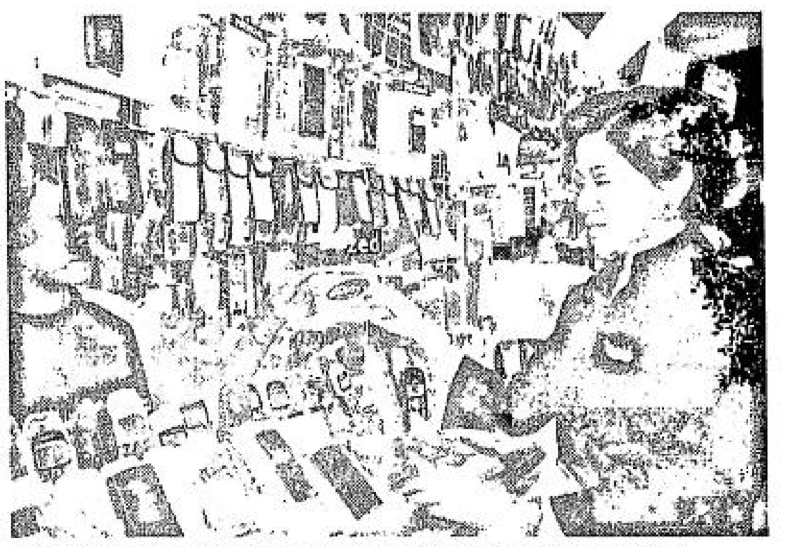
"It is no longer controversial now, as almost all phone companies have shifted to the point-of-sale method. Before, there were two firms that used the point-of-usage as reckoning period," Parayno said.

He said the bureau checked the sales of prepaid card sources against those declared by the distributors and found huge discrepancies.

Rep. Jules Ledesma, chair of the House ways and means committee, has suggested that phone companies pay taxes once prepaid cards are issued to distributors and not after they are sold.

Parayno said almost all phone firms had adopted such a tax system.

Ledesma believes prepaid card providers, through a practice called "the float" where temporary earnings are invested in short-term instruments, earn from the money that they should remit early to the government.


ONE of the thousands of prepaid card outlets in Metro Manila.

Because of the faulty setup, a finance official said the prepaid card sales reported by these companies could be erroneous and that their VAT and income taxes declaration could be irregular.

Parayno believes the BIR can snare some 10,000 tax cheats this year as part of his ongoing effort to intensify the bureau's tax payment audits and improve collection.

The 720 companies caught so far were found to have understated their revenues by as much as P25 billion.

UCPB earmarks ₱50M to expand lending program

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank is earmarking some P50 million to expand the coverage of its "Buklod-Unlad" micro-finance lending program into other coconut areas following a successful pilot test of the program in Southern Leyte.

In a statement, UCPB said loans under the program reached P16.1 million, with a remarkable 100-percent repayment rate during its 15-month test run from June 2001 to September 2002.

The loans benefited 2,646 micro-entrepreneurs, mostly wives of small coconut farmers, in 31 barangays in the Southern Leyte towns of Sogod, Libangon and Bontoc, the bank said.

Buklod-Unlad is being implemented by the UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development Corp., the bank's social lending arm.

"With the excellent results we got in Leyte, we are now looking at implementing the program in other coconut areas," said UCPB-CIIF Finance president Edgardo Amistad.

Amistad said the ultimate goal of the Buklod-Unlad program was to help coconut farmers raise their living condition by transforming them into two-income families.

Under the program, UCPB-CIIF Finance organizes the wives or other immediate members of the family of coconut farmers into groups of five to seven people, and then provides these groups with certain basic training sessions intended to enhance credit discipline. Only after completing the sessions can the beneficiaries access credit, Amistad said.

"This is not a dole-out," he stressed. "Our intention is to develop the rural folks into real entrepreneurs so that they can eventually access on their own credit from formal sources. In this way too, we can use our funds to reach out to more micro-entrepreneurs."

Apart from the credit facility, the Buklod-Unlad program also incorporates a savings mechanism whereby the beneficiaries are required to set aside every week a fixed amount out of the income of their enterprises and put this into a savings account.

In addition, there's an insurance coverage that provides hospitalization benefits and productivity pay when the beneficiaries fall sick.

Buklod-Unlad is a complementary program to the UCPB-CIIF Finance's flagship Countryside Economic Development Program.

This program, which is being implemented in more than 20,000 barangay across the country, provides a package of assistance to coconut farmers belonging to accredited cooperatives.

Caterpillar to file more charges vs counterfeiter

CATERPILLAR Inc. is set to file 17 additional charges against a businessman it accuses of violating provisions of the Philippines' Intellectual Property Rights Code.

The raps came in the wake of recent raids conducted by the National Capital Region Police Office of retail outlets selling suspected counterfeit Caterpillar- and CAT-branded products.

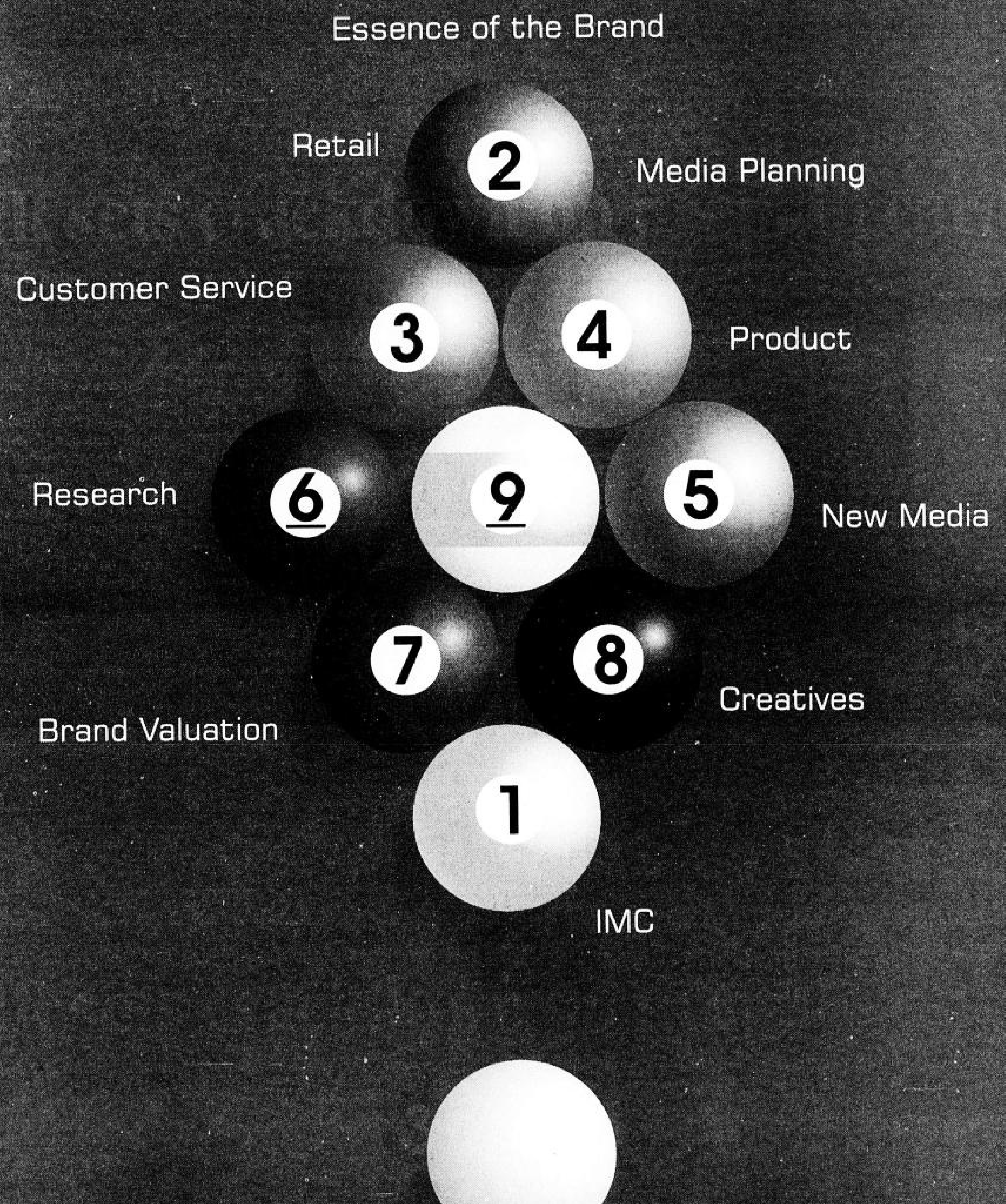
The Department of Justice has already filed 37 similar cases against businessman Manolo Samson.

Some 10 other criminal complaints against Samson are already being heard.

The cases stem from complaints by Caterpillar that Samson copied its product and brand designs and selling these items in the local market as "licensed Caterpillar merchandise."

Samson sought to dismiss Caterpillar's cases against him, but Justice Secretary Hernando Perez denied the appeal.

Caterpillar earlier warned local buyers that its authentic licensed product line consisting of heavy-duty shoes, clothes and leather goods were not sold in the Philippines, except in select duty-free shops.



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Napocor seeking $400-M loan from Citibank

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is seeking a $400-million loan from Citibank NA to finance the remainder of its budget requirements this year.

A source privy to the matter said in an interview that the Napocor board of directors, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. and the Monetary Board had given Napocor the go-ahead with the planned borrowing.

"The amount has in fact been secured and that it is expected to be released in the second half of November," the source said.

He added that the fund was needed while cash-strapped Napocor was waiting for another $750 million that would be raised through bond floats.

Government estimates showed that Napocor needed at least $1.5 billion for operational and debt servicing requirements for 2002.

However, Malacañang's order in May for Napocor to reduce its purchased power adjustment cost had added at least $100 million to the firm's funding needs.

Napocor collects from its customers the PPCA which covers electricity costs bought from independent power producers.

The order to reduce the PPCA meant that Napocor would pay for the amount that was pared off, which officials said meant additional expenses of at least P5 billion a month.

The national government has so far raised and guaranteed for the power firm $750 million in additional funds through bonds issued in the first quarter of this year.

Last week, PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said the bond issue worth $500 million which was originally slated for mid-October had been put off for November.

Del Fonso said the adviser for the bond float, Salomon Smith Barney, was continuously monitoring the market and was giving advise on the possible structure of the 20-year issue.

The government and the Asian Development Bank are partially guaranteeing the borrowings.

PSALM, which is assuming all of Napocor's financial obligations per the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, also expects a yen-denominated bond float worth $250 million. The yen bond will have a tenor of 18 years.

US stalling to force open skies on Manila

BY PUTTING off air talks, the United States is merely stalling long enough for the open skies provision in its air transport agreement with the Philippines to automatically take effect in October next year.

A highly placed industry source revealed that the US air panel suddenly backed out of air talks with the Philippines scheduled for Nov. 11 to 13 with a "very flimsy" reason.

"They said their request for funds to come here for the air talks was rejected. The costs for coming here only included the airfare, accommodations and food of the members of the US air panel, which wouldn't really amount to much, considering how rich the United States is. They're just making excuses not to come here for the talks because by not doing anything, open skies will just automatically take place," the source said.

Under the country's existing air transport agreement with the United States, open skies will automatically be enforced if the countries will not renegotiate the agreement before Sept. 30 next year. *Abigail L. Ho*

Privatization of transmission units delayed

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management has reported that the privatization of the country's power transmission system has been delayed for almost a year.

Congress has yet to grant the National Transmission Corp. a franchise, Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said.

The government had wanted to launch the National Power Corp.'s privatization in June, starting with the functions of the its spin-off, Transco.

In an interview, Del Fonso said the Senate adjourned for a two-week break without a decision on the proposed Transco franchise.

Psalm has been pushing for a law granting Transco a franchise to put up, operate and maintain a transmission system in the country.

The franchise will then be assigned to a private concessionaire.

Before Transco became independent of Napocor following the approval of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act last year, the franchise belonged to Napocor.

Energy officials explain that a transferable franchise was key in attracting potential investors to the country's power transmission sector.

"The privatization can start by April if the Senate would come up with a decision within a week of resuming session," Del Fonso said.

Preparations will take three to five months from the time a franchise is granted, he said

He added that the sale of Napocor's power plants would be pushed back to the second half of 2003.

The government had been hoping to sell its power plants in the fourth quarter of the year.

The government wants to privatize the transmission sector first, seeing that investors would want to buy the power plants when the new management of the transmission sector has settled down.

Earlier reports said the Senate was not inclined to grant Transco a transferable franchise.

The Senate apparently wanted to require the future transmission concessionaire to apply for a franchise with Congress so that lawmakers could check on the concessionaire's qualifications.

Del Fonso declined to comment on the matter.

In July, Psalm said it was considering to offer for concession the management and operation of the country's transmission system instead of its selling it outright.

Del Fonso said in an earlier interview that the agency was studying the option in view of difficulties to have a law passed allowing the government to transfer its franchise to a private concessionaire.

Del Fonso had said that if the gridlock on passing the franchise bill would seem to linger, Psalm would take steps to review the privatization plan for Transco.

Cooperate to cut costs, shipping rivals urged

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN competitors must cooperate to cut on costs and take advantage of volume discounts that come from pooling their cargo, a shipping industry expert has said.

In a speech before members of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Philippine Inter-island Shipping Association executive director Leonardo Odono urged local exporters to consider consolidating their cargoes instead of shipping these separately to avail of volume discounts from shipping lines.

"The way to do it is for our exporters to band together, pool their cargoes and negotiate as one with shipping lines to avail themselves of precious volume discounts. What is important is to get the minimum number of exporters into the pool to achieve a critical mass of cargo commitments to project a credible bargaining posture vis-à-vis the shipping lines," he said.

He explained that one of the biggest hurdles to competitiveness of local exporters was the need for local products to be transshipped, or shipped from the point of origin to another port before reaching the actual port of destination overseas.

While Philippine export products might be competitive in terms of quality and actual cost to products from China, Malaysia, Singapore, India or Vietnam, Odono said these foreign goods did not need transshipment so they still cost lower overall.

Solutions to this problem, he said, included avoiding transshipment through a regional hub port, booking directly with foreign shipping lines and seeking the services of domestic carriers going directly to the country's international cargo terminals if transshipment could not be avoided.

Korea's famed trader to meet with SMEs

SUNG Joo Kim, president and chief executive of Sung Joo International Ltd. of South Korea and one of Asia's most celebrated businesswomen, will meet today with some 200 entrepreneur-members of the Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (Philsmed).

Philsmed president Mina Gabor said Sung Joo was widely credited with having introduced Western and transparent style retailing practices to South Korea, replacing flea market style stores with subtly lit and spacious boutiques in up-market Seoul.

Sung Joo International is one of South Korea's most prominent and popular retail chains.

Philsmed members, mostly small and medium businessmen, are gathering for "Business Opportunities 2003," an annual gathering of Philsmed members, at Century Park Hotel.

Gabor, formerly secretary of tourism, said entrepreneurs were gathering to meet with experts, gain their advice and win contacts in their bids to qualify and become part of global chains of suppliers.

Secretary BN Jha of India's Ministry of Heavy Equipment and Public Enterprises is one of the speakers on "Creating Alliances."

Sung Joo has been profiled in such magazines as Forbes, Asiaweek, and Newsweek.

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FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER. | MAKATI CITY
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09.00am	Welcome / Opening
09:10am	Introduction to Windows .NET Server 2003 - by Microsoft
09:55am	Data Protection & High Availability for your systems - Backup & Recovery and High Availability Solutions - by VERITAS
10:45am	Coffee Break and Exhibition Pavilion
11.00am	Efficient Storage Management - Storage Virtualization & Snapshot Technologies - by VERITAS
11.30am	Live Demo on VERITAS Edition *for Microsoft Exchange 2000* - by VERITAS
12.00pm	SAN management - by VERITAS
12:30pm	Site recovery - Disaster Recovery solution suite - by VERITAS
01.00pm	Q & A
01.15pm	Lunch and End

INTRODUCTION TO WINDOWS .NET SERVER 2003
- The Windows .NET Server 2003 operating system is the most productive platform for powering connected applications, networks and web services from the workgroup to the datacenter. In this next generation platform, Microsoft delivers the .NET vision by having high levels of software integration through the use of XML Web services and applications through the Internet. Find out how Microsoft .NET and Windows .NET Server 2003 enables organizations to connect the cacophony of information, people, and systems, and most importantly, how to be in the lead in the world's competitive business arena.

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Makati City, Philippines | Friday, 8 November | Makati Shangri-la, Rizal Ballroom C, Level 3 | Time: 9am - 1pm

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VERITAS WINDOWS SOLUTIONS DAY
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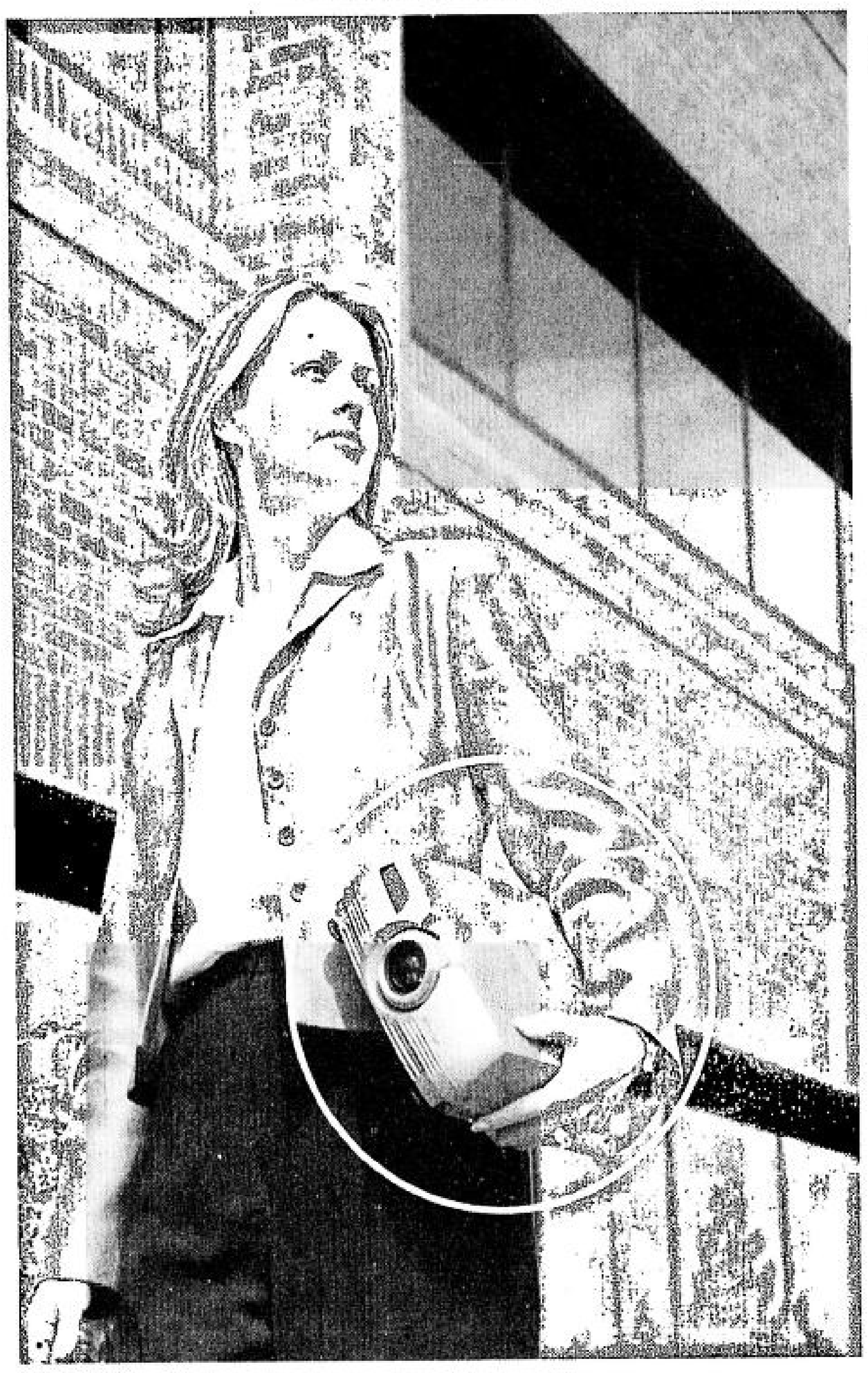

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FATF presses Manila on dirty money law

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PARIS-BASED Financial Action Task Force is set to send a letter reminding the Macapagal administration that it cannot wait forever for the Philippine Congress to amend the country's anti-money laundering law.

Persons familiar with the situation said the FATF, a global task force set up by developed countries to combat money laundering, had alerted the Philippine government that a letter from Paris pressing for changes to Republic Act No. 9116—the anti-money laundering law—was on its way.

The formal FATF communication, according to the source, would press the country's leaders to pass major amendments that included relaxing the strict deposit secrecy law and lifting the P4-million threshold set for banks to report suspicious transactions.

A government source said the FATF would probably give the Philippines until February next year to pass the amendments before slapping any sanctions on the country.

The Philippines swiftly passed a law in September last year to curb money laundering after the FATF—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's watchdog on money matters—threatened to impose economic sanctions unless it outlawed the trafficking of dirty money.

In February, however, the FATF dashed the hopes of several countries including the Philippines, pleading to be removed from a blacklist of 19 countries accused of allowing money laundering.

The group felt that progress had not been enough for these countries to be removed from the list.

In the Philippines' case, the FATF sought to further relax the country's strict 46-year-old law on deposit secrecy that prohibits even the Monetary Board, unless allowed by the court, to look into any bank account.

The group also asked for a reduction in the threshold amount that would trigger an investigation of suspicious transactions to P500,000 from P4 million, or possibly provide that all suspicious transactions be reported to the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

Pre-need firm urges SEC, industry group to study 'free look' scheme

By Elena R. Torrijos

BERKLEY International Philippines Inc., one of the largest pre-need firms in the country in terms of first year collections, has suggested that the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. consider allowing potential planholders a "free look" similar to a free-trial-with-money-back-guarantee offer for pre-need plans and possibly insurance policies.

In a news briefing, Berkley Philippines president Felipe Diego said he hoped the SEC would explore the idea of requiring pre-need companies to provide a "free look" benefit to planholders.

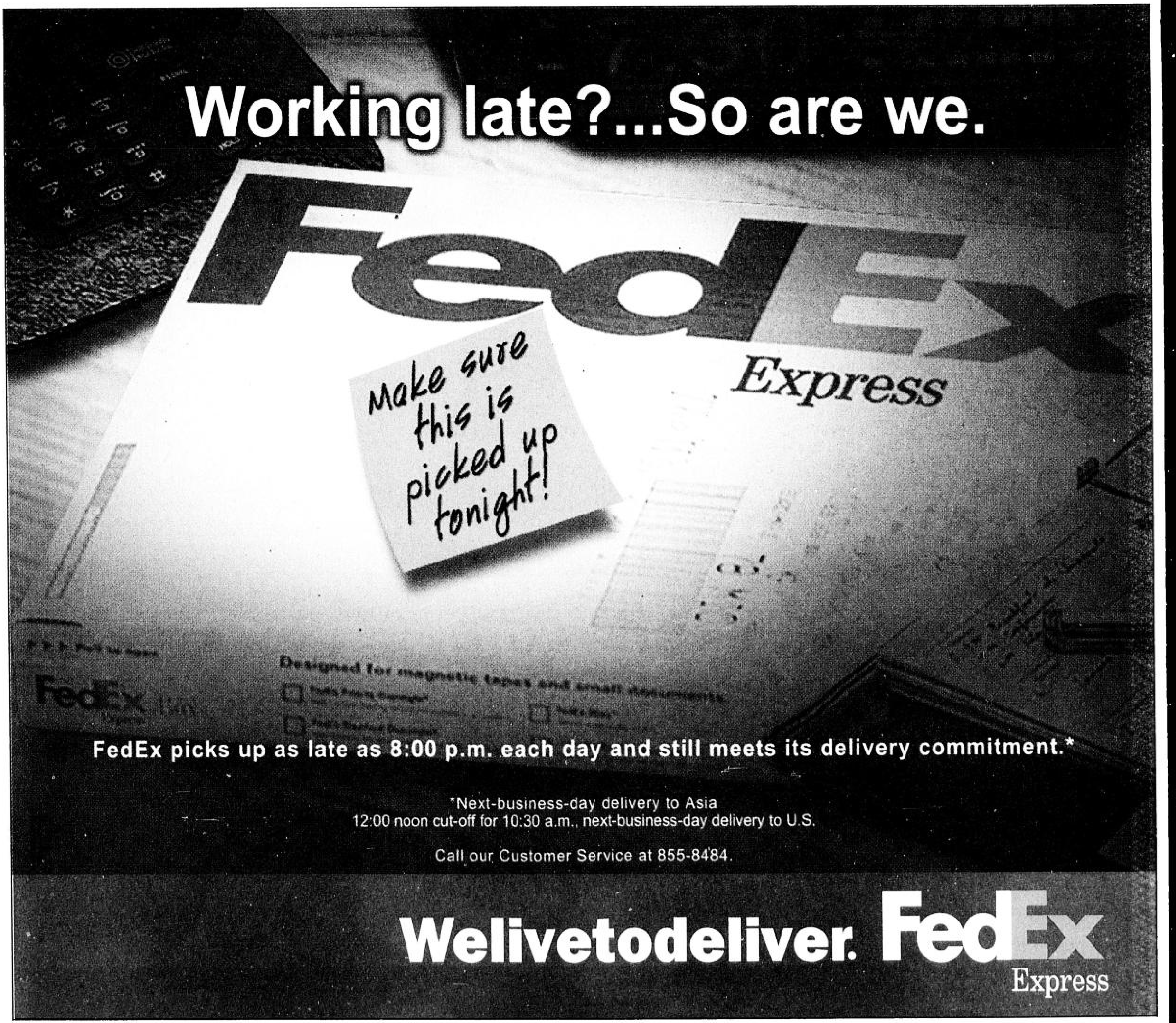
Berkley International LLC, the US-based mother company of Berkley Philippines, is opening a branch in Hong Kong, where a "free look" is widely and strictly enforced.

"With some negative news that put the pre-need industry in a not-so-good light recently, implementing the free look is a positive and definitive step or measure that would strengthen it and weed out, in the long run, undeserving players who are not capable of fulfilling their financial promises to the public," Diego said.

A "free look" is basically like a trial period—usually 14 days or even more—during which a planholder who has bought a product, pre-need or insurance, can exercise due diligence on it as well as the company behind it.

The planholders can study in detail the provisions of the contract and the product's suitability to their needs.

They can also use the period to do research and inquire about the company behind the product, ensuring its financial capability to fulfill its financial commitments as stipulated in the policy contract.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Gloomy US economic data renews recovery fears

TONY Petri, an unemployed information technology manager, hands out flyers seeking employment, in Times Square in New York. Petri is involved with an organization called "We Want Work," that helps unemployed professionals find jobs. We Want Work says 85 percent of their people served as directors, vice presidents, or higher and that two-thirds have masters in business administration degrees from top schools. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Plunging durable goods orders and growing consumer gloom raised new concerns about the US economic recovery on Friday while housing offered a rare bright spot in the economic picture.

Orders for costly and long-lasting durable goods posted their largest drop in 10 months in September while consumer sentiment in October hit its lowest level in nine years, according to two separate reports.

Both were worse than had been expected by analysts.

"These numbers are very disturbing," Dana Johnson, head of research at Banc One Capital Markets in Chicago, said after the release of the durable goods data. "At best what you have here is a sputtering economy."

Stocks tumbled after that report but took comfort from later data showing the housing market is still buoyant, as homeowners take advantage of four-decade low interest rates.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial average ended the day up 126.6 points at 8,443.9.

Prices of US Treasury bonds climbed as the durable goods and confidence data prompted investors to revive bets that the Federal Reserve could ease rates before the year's end.

The Fed is next due to discuss monetary policy on Nov. 6.

Analysts have been split about whether the central bank will move at that meeting, but many say this data may now tilt the Fed in favor of a cut.

"Fed officials are apt to be disturbed by this news, and therefore sentiment in favor of a 50-basis-point (half a percentage point) rate cut on Nov. 6 should be rising," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

The commerce department said durable goods orders, which, along with next week's employment numbers, are seen as pivotal for the Fed's decision-making process, fell 5.9 percent in September, pulled down by weak demand for cars and aircraft equipment. Excluding transportation, orders fell one percent.

The often volatile report showed weakness in many areas outside transportation, providing evidence that a sustained pick-up in business investment—cited by the Fed as crucial to the recovery—has not yet emerged.

Orders for computer and electronic equipment fell 6 percent and communications equipment orders tumbled a record 52 percent.

Machinery orders also declined and nondefense capital goods orders, seen as a proxy for capital spending by businesses, posted the largest drop since December 1997.

Even without aircraft, nondefense capital goods orders were down by 6.6 percent.

"Basically the business hesitation that started in June, has gotten worse. The business sector is already preparing themselves for a weaker outlook," said Ram Bhagavatula, chief economist at Royal Bank of Scotland Financial Markets in New York.

Pressure on corporate profits, accounting scandals and uncertainty over a potential war with Iraq are all undermining business confidence and making managers more cautious when making investment decisions.

With the boardroom mood still bleak, consumer spending—which drives about two-thirds of the economy—has been mainstay of the recovery from last year's recession. But there are signs the confidence of US consumers is also shaky. *Reuters*

S&P cuts Ford rating to above 'junk'

NEW YORK—Standard & Poor's on Friday cut Ford Motor Co.'s long-term debt ratings to two notches above "junk" status, on concern the world's No. 2 automaker's restructuring plan might not result in sustained profits.

S&P's outlook for Ford is "negative," meaning another cut for Ford and its Ford Motor Credit Co. finance arm is more likely than an upgrade. Ford had $162 billion of overall debt as of Sept. 30, S&P said, and is the biggest bond issuer in Lehman Brothers Inc.'s benchmark US Credit Index.

The downgrade might boost the automaker's borrowing costs as chief executive Bill Ford cuts jobs and closes plants as part of the company's nine-month-old turnaround plan.

Bill Ford met with investors this week to reassure them about Ford's plans, and on Monday called for another $1 billion of cost cuts, on top of at least $6 billion previously announced.

"They are going to be challenged and vehicle sales may slow," said Domenick Fumai, a BNP Paribas analyst who rates Ford bonds "hold" and does not own them.

S&P cut the long-term ratings of Ford and Ford Credit one notch to "BBB," its second lowest investment grade, from "BBB-plus." It affirmed their "A-2" short-term ratings. Last week S&P similarly cut General Motors Corp.'s long-term ratings, citing pension liabilities, with a "stable" outlook.

"Ford has to improve its cost position and beef up its product offerings," Scott Sprinzen, an S&P auto analyst, said in an interview.

Allan Gilmour, Ford's chief financial officer, said in a statement the Dearborn, Michigan-based company's restructuring is "on track." Ford lost $5.45 billion last year.

"The change in (our) credit rating does not reflect the fundamental strength of our business," Gilmour said.

Ford shares closed Friday on the New York Stock Exchange at $8.72, down 14 cents. They have fallen 45 percent this year.

Last week Ford posted a $326-million third-quarter net loss and said falling stocks had doubled its US pension fund's underfunded status to $6.5 billion from $3.2 billion a quarter earlier. Overall pension liability tops $10 billion, S&P said.

"Pension liabilities are a major factor in our downgrade," said Sprinzen. He said the new rating reflects Ford's long-term need "to devote significant resources to its pension fund."

Ford wants to post $7 billion in annual pretax profits by 2005. S&P said it might cut Ford again if it doubts the automaker will show sustained earnings improvement, and break even in its auto operations outside Ford Credit, in 2003.

Many analysts expected the Ford downgrade.

"I was not at all surprised," said Steven Bocamazo, vice president in fixed-income research at Loomis, Sayles & Co. in Boston, who does not own Ford bonds. *Reuters*

US consumer sentiment falls in October

NEW YORK—Consumer confidence in the economy was battered during October, falling to its lowest levels since 1993, according to a report Friday.

The University of Michigan's report on consumer sentiment for the entire month of October decreased to 80.6 from 86.1 in September, according to people who had seen the report. The Michigan data are released only to subscribers.

The mid-month October reading had been 80.4.

Economists had expected confidence levels to remain weak, although they did forecast a modest bounce back from the mid-month levels to an overall reading of 81.3.

The University of Michigan's index of current conditions ebbed to 92.4 for October versus the 92.9 seen in the middle of the month and 95.8 at the end of September.

Meanwhile, consumers' outlook about the future also suffered. The expectations gauge moved to 73.1 for October, a modest improvement from the 72.4 seen in the middle of the month, but still down from the 79.9 at the end of the last month.

Confidence levels have been under considerable pressure in recent months, and came under more pressure earlier this month, partly due to weak economic data and a variety of worries related to overseas events like the possible war on Iraq.

But even with those declines in sentiment, policy makers at the Federal Reserve have said on repeated occasions they are much more interested in what consumers do with their money, rather than what they say.

In an interview with Dow Jones Newswires earlier this week, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis president Gary Stern expressed general optimism that the economy should be moving around a 3-percent growth rate over coming quarters. *AP*

Citigroup seen cutting jobs

NEW YORK—Citigroup Inc. plans to cut 1,000 jobs from its investment and corporate banking businesses, The New York Times reported on Friday, citing executives who were briefed on the plans.

Like other Wall Street firms batting the market downturn, Citigroup has seen a slump in capital markets-related businesses like advising on mergers and stock offerings. Rival JP Morgan Chase & Co. Inc. plans to cut another 2,200 investment banking jobs, in addition to previous layoffs.

"I was just in a meeting with Todd Thomson, the chief financial officer of Citigroup, last week, and it's certainly not a surprise," said Putnam Lovell NBF analyst Jim Mitchell.

"He was basically saying, Look, everyone, including ourselves, are going to continue to cut in the fourth quarter in investment banking. He thinks there's a lot more to go, not just in headcount but in total compensation."

Citigroup is also under intense regulatory scrutiny for allegedly issuing overly bullish research reports in order to win investment banking deals. It recently replaced the head of its investment bank with its general counsel.

"Conditions are tough," Michael Mayo, an analyst at Prudential Securities, said. "They're known for aggressive expense management so I doubt they're sitting on their hands.

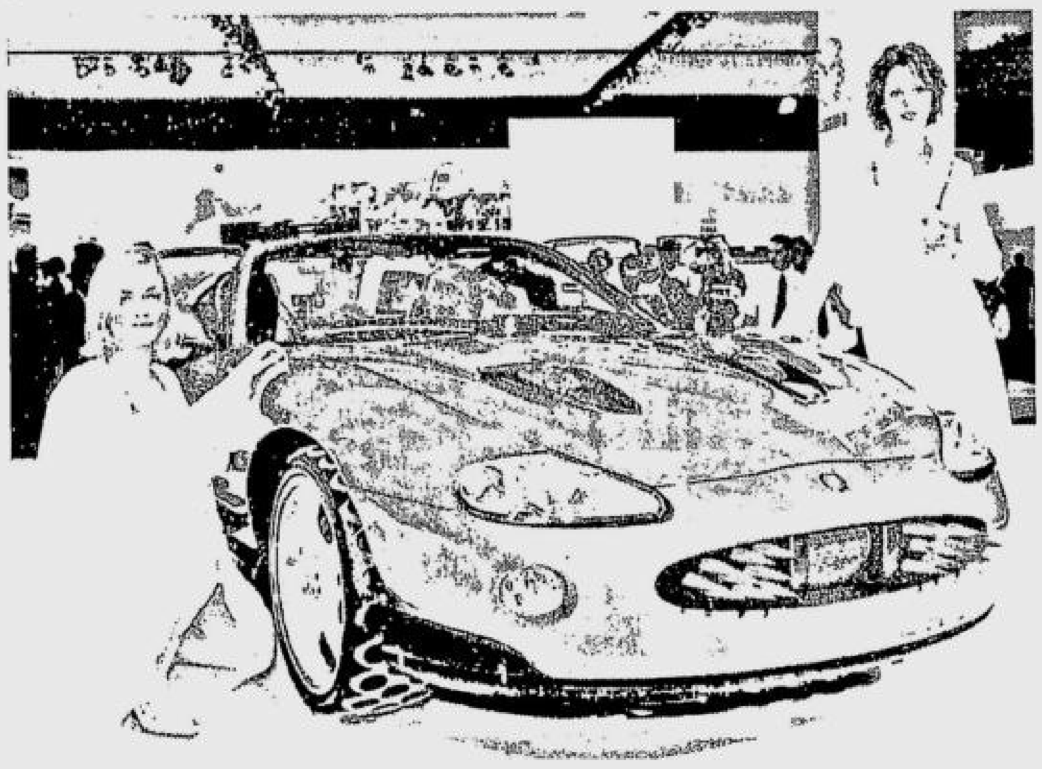
"Whether it's 500, 1000, or 2000 (jobs), they're going to take action if market activity remains weak."

Citigroup said it is making reductions throughout the firm but declined to quantify the amount or timing of any layoffs.

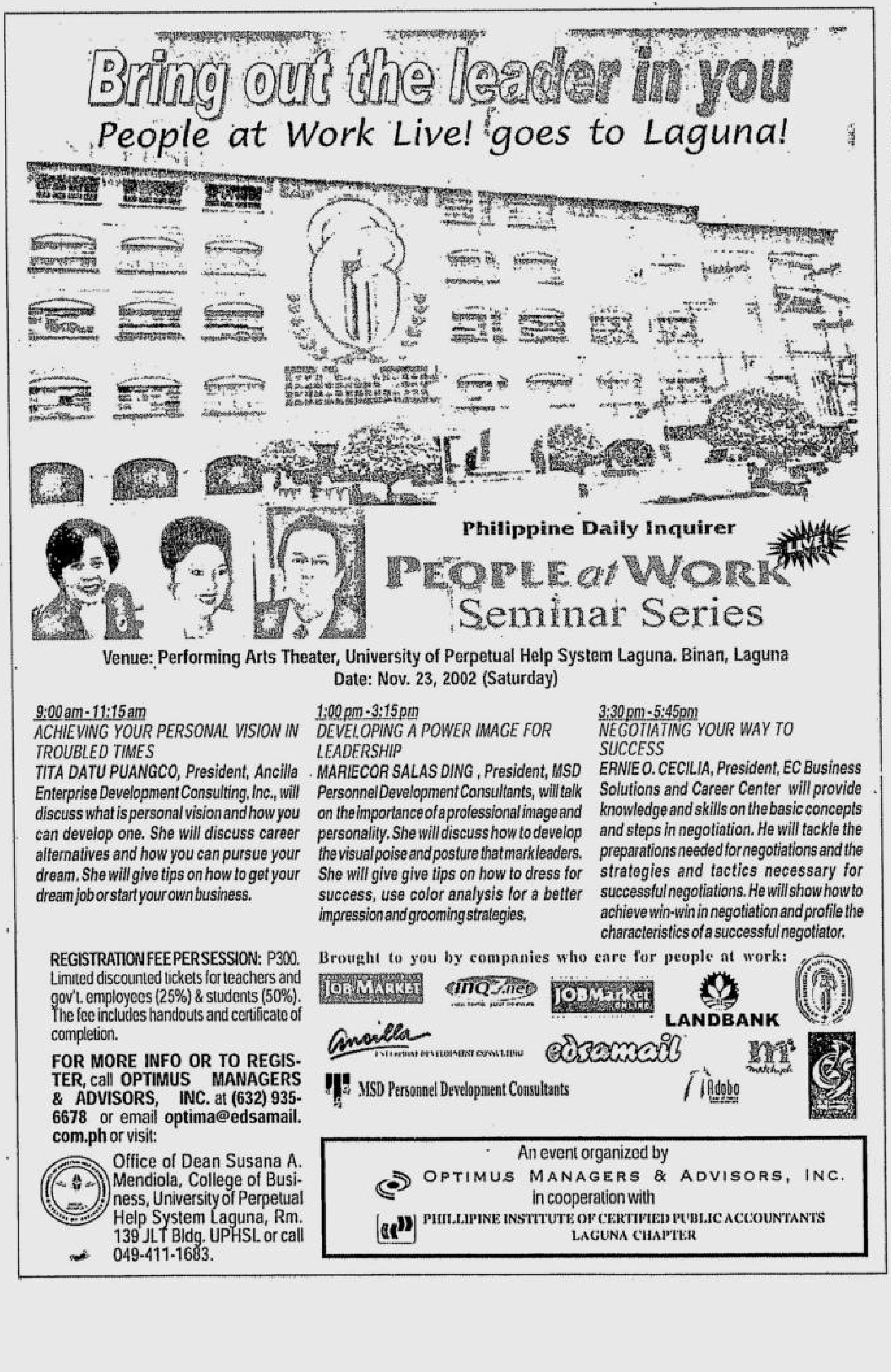
"We continue a process of targeted reductions throughout our organization that reflects current market realities and an ongoing review of our businesses," a spokesperson for Salomon Smith Barney, Citigroup's investment banking arm, said.

The layoffs will be spread broadly within the global corporate and investment bank, which has more than 55,000 employees worldwide, according to an official who was informed of the plans, the Times said.

The cuts will include more than 200 investment bankers who will be laid off over the next few weeks, according to the Times article, and will affect specialists in mergers and corporate finance. *Reuters*



UK OUT, NO MAGS, SALES, ARCHIVES, INTERNET. The 400 bhp Jaguar XKR convertible used in the latest James Bond film makes its World debut, at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, Oct. 22. The show opens to the public Friday after media and business days, and an estimated 650,000 visitors are expected to flock to the event, which will see the United Kingdom debut of 75 models among the 700 cars on show. AFP



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9:00 am - 11:15 am
ACHIEVING YOUR PERSONAL VISION IN TROUBLED TIMES
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will discuss what is personal vision and how you can develop one. She will discuss career alternatives and how you can pursue your dream. She will give tips on how to get your dream job or start your own business.

1:00 pm - 3:15 pm
DEVELOPING A POWER IMAGE FOR LEADERSHIP
MARIECOR SALAS DING, President, MSD Personnel Development Consultants, will talk on the importance of a professional image and personality. She will discuss how to develop the visual poise and posture that mark leaders. She will give give tips on how to dress for success, use color analysis for a better impression and grooming strategies.

3:30 pm - 5:45 pm
NEGOTIATING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center will provide knowledge and skills on the basic concepts and steps in negotiation. He will tackle the preparations needed for negotiations and the strategies and tactics necessary for successful negotiations. He will show how to achieve win-win in negotiation and profile the characteristics of a successful negotiator.

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WTO aides raise concerns over trade pacts

LOS CABOS, Mexico—With countries around the globe in a mad dash to negotiate as many trade pacts as they can, top World Trade Organization officials are urging them to stop and consider the consequences.

At a meeting this week of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, WTO Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi expressed concern that the flurry of bilateral and regional talks could steal time and attention away from multilateral negotiations under WTO.

Supachai told reporters he wished countries of North and South America well in their effort to put together a regional free trade agreement by January 2005—the same deadline for the current round of WTO talks.

But he also said developing countries with limited resources to engage in trade talks might be wiser to concentrate their efforts at the multilateral level, where they could achieve "the most success."

Supachai's top aide, Stuart Harbinson, told business executives attending the Apec meeting that the drive for bilateral and regional agreements has produced "a very messy patchwork" of pacts.

There are now more than 250 bilateral and regional trade agreements around the world, according to WTO data.

Because the terms vary, companies face a challenging task of keeping all the rules straight, Harbinson said, and some agreements also have the potential to discriminate against countries who are not members.

The 21 members of APEC comprise a diverse set of economies in Asia, the Americas and Oceania.

Members include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

The group has a goal of free trade among developed country members by 2010 and the rest of the region by 2020.

In a joint statement on Thursday, Apec foreign and trade ministers endorsed the use of regional trade agreements and free trade pacts to achieve those targets. But they also said the pacts agreement should be consistent with WTO rules.

A partial checklist provides a glimpse into the flurry of trade negotiating activity:

- China will begin free trade talks soon with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- Mexico, with 28 free trade agreements already to its name, plans to sign an agreement with Japan on Sunday to open a new set of free trade negotiations.
- the United States is concluding free trade agreements with Singapore and Chile and plans new negotiations with Morocco and countries in Central America and Southern Africa.
- Singapore is also close to wrapping up talks with Australia, which would like a deal with the United States.

Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said countries interested in expanding trade had to explore other options after efforts to launch WTO negotiations failed in 1999. *Reuters*

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Lines between terror and trade blur for Apec

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico—Pacific Rim CEOs and diplomats insisted Friday that security and economics are becoming the same discipline, saying an interdependent world must tackle terrorism, trade and development as a single challenge with many fronts.

Participants in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum are outlining what they consider a blueprint for human safety and prosperous trade in the 21st century—one that recognizes overlap and distributes the effort among nations and corporations.

"Globalization has turned the world into an interconnected village—a village where if a house burns, no one is safe," said Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the deputy prime minister of Malaysia.

Apec is an economic alliance, but its focus since last year's meeting in Shanghai—weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States—has been terrorism and its effect on trade.

While some lament the focus on security over commerce, a resounding chorus has pronounced them flip sides of the same issue.

"We must achieve both, or we have not addressed the challenge of terrorism," said Lawrence Greenwood, the US ambassador to Apec.

"We are going to be as strong as the weakest link," he said. "The slowest must move fast, or all our security is in jeopardy."

Top diplomats of the 21 Apec economies have been meeting in the Los Cabos resort area at the tip of the Baja California peninsula. On Thursday and Friday, they were joined by CEOs of Pacific Rim corporations, and a weekend summit on Apec's core mission, trade liberalization, is drawing heads of state from across the region.

One notable exception: Russian President Vladimir Putin, who canceled his trip to stay in Moscow and deal with a hostage crisis carried out by Chechen insurgents who want Russian troops out of Chechnya. The Kremlin is condemning that attack as terrorism, too.

Unlike many attacks traditionally defined as acts of terror, the Moscow hostage siege was designed to accomplish one immediate goal rather than solely sow fear. But Greenwood said the American government also considers it a terrorist act.

"Clearly, we see that as a form of terrorism," Greenwood said at a news conference on the Apec sidelines.

Apec ministers, in a statement released Thursday afternoon, called "terrorism in all its forms" a threat to economic stability. It did not define terrorism, but denounced it as "a direct challenge to Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies."

Also high on the agenda for Pacific Rim leaders was North Korea's revelation this month that it was developing nuclear weapons, alarming countries across the world but especially the insular regime's neighbors in northeast Asia.

"It is important to keep calm and maintain flexibility," said Hisashi Owada, president of the Japan Institute of International Affairs.

He said the North Korean situation illustrates the need for Japan to develop a stronger military. AP

Koizumi at meet to tackle economy

LOS CABOS, Mexico—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi arrived here Friday for a major Asia-Pacific summit where he will have to grapple with the North Korean weapons program and soothe nerves about the world's second-biggest economy.

The Japanese leader is expected to seek backing from fellow leaders for his initiative to pursue dialogue with North Korea and to underscore his efforts to revive the troubled Japanese economy, analysts said in Tokyo.

On the sidelines of the regional forum, Koizumi was to hold a three-way summit with US President George W. Bush and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, dealing with North Korea's admission it has a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi said here this week that Tokyo's negotiations on normalizing relations with North Korea would only go ahead if Pyongyang bows to international demands to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

Koizumi and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il held a historic summit in Pyongyang last month and had agreed to resume talks in a bid to normalise ties between the two former enemies.

At the Japan-North Korean summit, Koizumi and Kim signed a declaration which committed their countries to observe all international agreements for a "comprehensive solution" to the nuclear question.

Koizumi also was expected to reassure Apec leaders of his determination to revitalize the troubled economy by introducing a fresh economic stimulus package, analysts said.

He pledged in a policy speech to parliament last week to accelerate reforms in the next six months to restore economic vigor and to draw up a comprehensive economic package immediately.

Bank write-offs of nonperforming loans should be accelerated so as to complete disposals by March 2005, the prime minister said.

The Japanese government plans to unveil concrete measures to clean up the banking system and fight deflation by the middle of next week, officials said in Tokyo.

The chief financial sector regulator, Heizo Takenaka, earlier outlined details of a controversial banking plan, which includes cutting banks' capital and reorganizing their bad loan holdings, to cabinet members and ruling coalition party heads. *AFP*

Japan bank reform—heads or tails, yen loses.

NEW YORK—By most accounts, trading the yen while Japan grapples with banking reform is akin to tossing a two-headed coin: Either option brings the same result—yen weakness.

Even though the yen could gain between now and the expected announcement of a final bank reform package at the end of October, analysts say any appreciation is likely to be short-lived.

This week the yen has been whipsawed by uncertainty over Tokyo's banking policy, leaving market players roundly flummoxed over how to trade the currency.

Traders sell the yen one day only to repurchase it the next—in direct proportion to wide swings in expectations that Tokyo will either succeed or fail in a massive overhaul of its troubled banking sector.

This week, a feud between Japan's ruling coalition and chief financial services regulator Heizo Takenaka erupted into public view when Takenaka was forced to delay the release of his blueprint detailing how Japan will ultimately dispose of an estimated 52 trillion yen ($417 billion) of bad loans, which is bitterly opposed by the banking industry.

The ever-shifting developments sent the yen to a three-year low against the euro above 123 yen last week, and a four-month low against the dollar above 125.60 yen this week. The Japanese currency has since retraced those losses.

However confused currency markets are at present, economists broadly expect structural reform in the world's second largest economy to take place in some form that—twinned with an attack on Japan's deflation—will lead to a lower yen.

And if reform efforts faltered, analysts say, the result would still be an unequivocal negative for the Japanese currency.

"Regardless of the grade you assign to Japanese bank reform, if they get an 'F' for failing to reform or an 'A' for credibly moving on reform, at the end of the day you still have a weaker yen," said David Gilmore, partner at Foreign Exchange Analytics in Connecticut.

Should Japan fail to purge the financial system of its nonperforming loan problem, the market is likely to lose confidence in the country's policymakers, and that would be reflected in the poor performance of Japanese assets.

In a sarcastic aside, Gilmore said that—in buying yen on expectations that reform will falter—traders were seemingly endorsing a continuation of the status quo that has paralyzed Japan's economy for more than 10 years.

"So in essence if they don't reform banks, we have an economic stimulus package," he quipped.

Andrew Delano, currency strategist at IDEAGlobal in New York, said any yen strength on the heels of bank reform would not be seen immediately. *Reuters*

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Hong Kong must redefine role—Tung

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico—With China's enormous economy more dynamic than ever, Hong Kong must redefine its role in the Pacific Rim and realize it is no longer the world's only gateway to the Chinese mainland, the region's chief executive said Friday.

Tung Chee-hwa, head of Hong Kong's Beijing-backed government, said he would encourage all sectors of Hong Kong society—from government to businesses and the private sector—to realize that changes both in China and in the larger world have a direct impact on their region.

"Hong Kong continues to be a bridge," Tung said, addressing a conference of business leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in this Mexican resort. But, he said, "Now, in the 21st century, our role is going to be different."

Hong Kong, a British colony for 150 years and a global financial hub, reverted to Chinese rule in 1997 under a series of laws ensuring its status for 50 years as a "special administrative region"—a body with its own government and its own regulatory power.

Beijing promised not to interfere with its development for that period and appears to have largely complied, though Tung's Beijing-backed government has made changes—including a proposed new subversion law—that have led many to suggest that the mainland leadership is calling the shots.

For decades, while China turned inward under Mao Zedong, Hong Kong grew into a front window for mainland China, becoming a formidable—and, not unimportantly, unique—economic powerhouse as it mediated Chinese culture for the rest of the world.

But 20 years of economic reforms on the mainland begun by Deng Xiaoping and continued by his successor, Jiang Zemin, have opened many of China's cities—particularly on the Pacific coast—to foreign investment and influence. Today, Hong Kong faces formidable competition.

"There are now many, many bridges between the rest of the world on one hand and mainland China on the other," Tung said. *AP*

Pesticide firms seen threatened by biotech

THE GROWING use of plant varieties improved through modern biotechnology is posing a threat to the chemical pesticide sector, a US study showed.

Following extensive research, the US National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP) reported that there have already been significant reduction in the application of toxic chemical pesticides on American farms which have switched to planting some eight biotech crop varieties.

Through biotechnology, laboratories develop plant varieties with natural resistance to specific pests or diseases.

The natural resistance results in the radical reduction or total elimination of the need to apply chemical insecticides to crops.

The NCFAP said the eight biotech crops currently grown in the US have already reduced pesticide use by 46 million pounds in 2001.

At approximately $10 per pound, the reduction has already resulted in some $460 million in losses to pesticide firms, mostly based in Europe.

Among biotech crops in wide use in the US include cotton, corn, soybeans and canola.

The NCFAP said the introduction of 32 other biotech crops still under development could further bring down the use of pesticides by another 117 million pounds per year.

This will result in a potential annual reduction of 163 million pounds or over $16 billion in losses to the global pesticide industry.

The NCFAP estimates do not include pesticide reduction that will come from the use of biotech cotton in India and other biotech crops in China, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, South Africa and the Philippines.

China has already reportedly earmarked some $500 million for its own research on biotechnology.

Agricultural biotechnology, however, is being opposed worldwide by international pressure group Greenpeace which has reportedly set aside a $117-million fund for the global campaign.

Stocks on Wall St. expected to drop on bad news

NEW YORK—Economic data showing higher unemployment and weaker consumer confidence will grab the spotlight this week, pushing stocks lower as the rapid-fire pace of earnings season ends.

"Those numbers will be disappointing," said Joseph Battipaglia, chief investment officer for Ryan, Beck & Co. "The short-term trader will take profits and someone looking to commit cash will hesitate on the news. I see the market shading a little lower."

Economic updates include advanced gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter, October unemployment statistics and The Conference Board's consumer confidence reading. The latter is particularly important to investors since consumer spending underpins about two-thirds of the nation's economy.

Economists surveyed by Reuters anticipate the data will show consumer confidence weakened in October, while unemployment rose. A bright spot, however, may be early GDP data, for which market pros forecast a third-quarter gain.

But "even if there's a strong GDP number, any enthusiasm will be burst by a weak consumer sentiment number," said Liz Miller, a fund manager for Trevor Stewart Burton & Jacobsen Inc., which oversees $750 million. "In the short term, there's more negative news than positive."

Though economic data will command much of the attention, earnings from a few market heavyweights will exert some pull.

Financial services company American Express Co. and Kellogg Co., the No. 1 US cereal maker, are expected to post quarterly results on Monday, while the earnings of consumer products maker Procter & Gamble Co. are scheduled on Tuesday.

Wednesday will bring results from computer services company Electronic Data Systems Corp. Report cards from oil and gas companies ChevronTexaco and Exxon Mobil are expected on Thursday.

To be sure, stunningly strong profit results could yank up investor sentiment and jump-start stocks. But investors warn lukewarm results could hurt more than help.

"Unless we start to see better earnings or better guidance, it'll be tough to break new ground with stocks," said Gil Knight, who manages $240 million for Allied Investment Advisors Inc. "Profitability has been hurt and capital spending is still awful. I'm not seeing stuff to make people happy."

On Friday, the three major US stock indexes finished their third straight week of gains—the longest such stretch since August. For the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Dow Jones industrial average each gained 1.5 percent, while the Nasdaq composite index climbed 3.4 percent, according to the latest figures.

One of the week's main economic events occurs on Tuesday, when The Conference Board, a private research and business promotion organization, presents results from its survey of 5,000 households. The confidence measure is expected to drop to 89.7, from 93.3 in September.

On Wednesday, the government is scheduled to give its advance estimate of US GDP growth, which is expected to have risen 3.7 percent, from its second-quarter growth rate of 1.3 percent.

Friday will bring the government's unemployment reading for October, when the jobless rate is expected to have risen to 5.8 percent from 5.6 percent in September. *Reuters*

US research conflicts exist outside banking

NEW YORK—Prudential Securities, less than two years ago, laid off most of its investment bankers and postured itself as a provider of independent stock research, unfettered by banking interests.

Critics of Wall Street have charged that analysts are pressured by their banker colleagues to issue overly bullish reports to help their firm win lucrative underwriting and merger advisory mandates.

Earlier this month, top US market regulators agreed to mount a united assault on stock-offering and analyst-research scandals embroiling Wall Street.

Many critics have called the potential trading conflict of interest less damaging than the perceived banking conflict.

Prudential adopted its trading-but-not-banking model just as Wall Street research was coming under fire for its perceived lack of objectivity—although some analysts point to Prudential's lack of investment banking success as the real reason behind the move.

Prudential, which has more than 5,000 brokers and a trading operation for processing institutional trades, is trying to fund its well-regarded research team with trading commissions rather than banking revenue.

"There are enormous potential conflicts of interest in funding research with trading," said one securities analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If they're (the analysts) being primarily compensated by commissions, might they have an economic interest to say controversial things for the purposes of generating trading activity?" the analyst said.

To be sure, Prudential, unlike investment banking powerhouses Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston, has not been accused of misleading investors with biased stock picks and many of its analysts have been labeled tops in their fields.

"We have absolutely no one-to-one compensation relationship between analysts and trading activity in any sector or particular stock in which they cover," a Prudential spokesman said, adding that the firm's research director determines individual analyst compensation.

But while much of the criticism aimed at analysts is based on the paltry number of "sell" recommendations, some of the nation's leading investment banks have more "sells" than the vast majority of their peers.

Morgan Stanley, a leading underwriter of stocks and bonds, rated 20 percent of the stocks it covers as "underweight," its lowest rating. In Prudential's case, only 3 percent of its recommendations were "sell," as of Oct. 24, while 39 percent were "buy."

The business model for Prudential, the securities arm of insurer Prudential Financial Inc., has yet to prove successful, according to its most recent regulatory filings.

Prudential's financial advisory group, which includes its brokerage and stock trading operations, posted a second-quarter operating loss of $8 million. That was significantly narrower than a loss of $88 million year ago, but the improvement was due to cost cuts rather than increases in revenues. *Reuters*

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NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS

As a stockholder, please be informed that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in SEC Case No. 07-97-5693 entitled "In the Matter of the Petition for the Declaration of Suspension of Payments, Approval of a Rehabilitation Plan, and the Appointment of a Management Committee" issued its Orders dated 02 June 1999, 17 and 19 August 1999 and 29 November 2000 approving a Rehabilitation Plan for Victorias Milling Company, Inc. ("VMC") and the amendments thereof (the "SEC Orders").

Reduction of Capital Stock

Pursuant to the SEC Orders, VMC filed its application with the SEC for the amendment of its articles of incorporation for the decrease and increase of its capital stock, the certificates, for which, were issued by the SEC on 02 October 2002. In accordance with the approved Rehabilitation Plan, the authorized capital stock of VMC has been reduced initially from Two Billion Seven Hundred Million Pesos (₱2,700,000,000.00) divided into Two Hundred Seventy Million (270,000,000) shares with par value of Ten Pesos (₱10.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares, with a par value of Two & 91/100 (₱ 2.91) per share.

The par value of the share of stock of VMC was then further reduced from Two & 91/100 Pesos (₱ 2.91) to One Peso (₱1.00) per share, and simultaneously, thereto, the subscribed capital stock of VMC was increased from One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Pesos (₱170,432,189.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares at One Peso (₱ 1.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at par value of One Pesos (₱1.00) per share through a stock split.

Thereafter, VMC's authorized capital stock was increased from Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at a par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share to Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight Pesos (₱2,563,035,708.00) divided into Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million-Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight (2,563,035,708) shares of common stock at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share.

Accordingly, your existing shares in VMC which have a par value of ₱10.00 per share will be cancelled and in lieu, thereof, you shall receive, upon surrender of your certificates of stock, such number of shares of VMC equivalent to your present shares multiplied by Two and 91/100 (2.91) shares at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share as a consequence of the reductions in par value and the stock split.

Surrender of Old Stock Certificates

You are hereby granted until 02 December 2002 to surrender your old stock certificates. Should you have further questions on this matter, please direct your queries to any of the following:

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Tel No. (034) 3993373 Fax No. (034) 3993378

Should you fail to do so within the given period, the Corporate Secretary shall automatically convert the shares of stock registered in your name as reflected in the Stock and Transfer Book of VMC as of 02 October 2002 and credit the resultant shares by virtue of the stock split in your name. Please be advised that VMC stock certificates bearing the old par values of its capital stock must first be surrendered and replaced by the new certificates prior to any transfer or sale of the shares covered thereby.

Please be further advised that on 02 September 2002 the SEC approved the quasi-reorganization of VMC pursuant to its Approved Rehabilitation Plan in order to reduce VMC's existing deficit of ₱7,718,960,481.00 as of 31 August 2001.

Kindly inform VMC of your **new address** to enable us to send future notices and communications to your correct address.

Please be guided accordingly.

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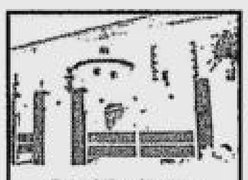

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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting qualified Contractors/ Suppliers to a Public Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of the following HDMF Corporate Give-Aways for CY 2002:

	Description	Quantity	Agency Budget Ceiling
1.	Memo Case with Memo Pad	2,547 pcs.	P 764,100.00
2.	Document Clutch Bag	3,042 pcs.	760,500.00
3.	T-Shirt	3,873 pcs.	387,300.00
4.	Umbrella	4,920 pcs.	492,000.00

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid Forms may be obtained from the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee - Goods and Services (BAC-GS), 7th Floor, Task Force - General Services, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting **October 21, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand (P1,000.00) Pesos.**

Submission of Eligibility Documents and Opening of Bids shall be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **October 29, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., 7th Floor, Task Force - General Services, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Carlos A. Latorre/ Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz at 811-4262, 811-4279 or visit our Corporate Website at http://pag-ibig-fund.com or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. FARIA
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI -- Oct. 20 & 28, 2002)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICIAL AND/OR PERSONAL LAUNDRY SERVICES
(ADB/OAS-2002/042-043)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of official and/or personal laundry services.
2. The application for prequalification may be made for the provision of either official laundry services only, personal laundry services only, or both services.
3. The successful bidder will be contracted for an initial period of two years from the commencement date of the contract, extendible up to a maximum duration of five years.
4. To be qualified to submit a bid, the bidder must meet the following criteria:
   (i) Should have independent legal existence as a validly registered company, or a joint venture partnership (under joint and several liability), for at least 5 years with trade specialization in providing laundry services and dry-cleaning services to large groups or companies;
   (ii) Have minimum of 5 current and previous clients (embassies, hotels, international/multinational organizations, etc.);
   (iii) Capable of establishing laundry and dry cleaning outlet and deploying qualified personnel that will cater to requirements of ADB personal laundry services; and
   (iv) Should have generally sound financial and credit position with average annual revenues of at least P5 million over the last three years.
5. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **28 October to 4 November 2002**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos Two Hundred (P200.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.
6. Last day of submission of application for prequalification is **12 November 2002.**
7. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **29 November to 4 December 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00) payable in cash or check to ADB.
8. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification without incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds for ADB's action.

Director
General Services Division
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Oct. 28 & 29, 2002)

AUCTION

SOAP PRODUCTION MACHINERY SPARES; VEHICLES; HAND & POWER TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPT.; HOUSEHOLD GOODS; MEDICAL EQUIPMENT; MISC., ETC.

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OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - (11) Asstd. Combination Safety Vaults; Asstd Lateral Filing Cabinets, (+100) Asstd Office Chairs, Superb Quality Office Tables; Work Surfaces, Pedestal Drawers; Credenzas, Executive Tables; Modular Office Partitions; Large Qty of Asstd Monitors & Printers; Pentium Laptop Computers, Typewriters; Ballpens, etc
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - Fabric Upholstered Wooden Sala Sets, Wooden Dining Chairs; Plastic Monobloc Chairs & Tables, Heavy Duty Washing Machines/Dryers, Desk Fans; Large Cap Rice Cookers, Airpots, Coffee Urns, SINGER 201 K Sewing Machine; Asstd. Plates, Disc Plates/Cups, Microwave Ovens; GRAND VCD's (unused); Desk Lampshades; Beds, Marble Top Side Tables, etc
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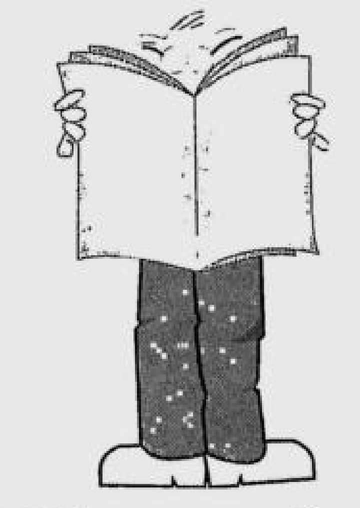

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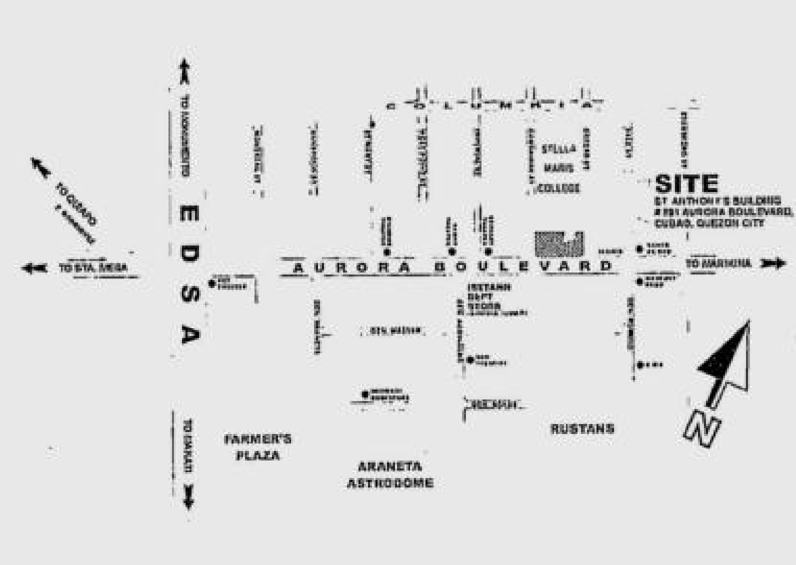

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Fund raisers' book launched; basic course set

NON-PROFIT professionals and fundraisers now have more tools to help them achieve fund raising success. From Nov. 19 to 22, Venture for Fund Raising will conduct its 26th Basic Course on Fund Raising, and will cap this activity with the launching of "The Fund Raiser's Guide to Fund Raising", the first and only book on fund raising in the Philippines. These activities will be held at a venue within Metro Manila.

The Basic Course on Fund Raising teaches the importance of strategic fund raising, and provides participants with the principles, skills, and tools needed to do this successfully.

"The Fund Raiser's Guide to Fund Raising" culls tried-and-tested theories, researched data, and practical knowledge, to provide readers with a reference material that is as inspiring as it is relevant. More than being just a "how-to" book, The Fund Raiser's Guide to Fund Raising offers anecdotes from veteran fund raisers, to show fledgling non-profits how success can be achieved. It was written by expert fundraiser and Venture for Fund Raising executive director Marianne Quebral, who has over 15 years of fund raising and management experience.

Venture for Fund Raising is the only organization that provides consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund raising to other non-profit organizations in the Philippines. For more information, call Valerie Remoquillo, Manager for Training Services, at (02) 634-8889 to 90, or e-mail lerie@venture-asia.org.

MAGNIFICENT 9
Winners all, 9 young men strike a pose after topping 258 national finalists in Counter Strike, Age of Empires II and Star Craft during the awarding ceremonies of the Samsung 1st Philippine Cyber Games Challenge held at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City. The 9 are (Counter Strike) Norman Espiritu, Gary Guevarra, Jay Sangha, Erwin Go and Frederick Jon Suerte; (Star Craft) Marver Mendoza, Celsus Kintanar and Gerald Salvador; (Age of Empires II) Gary Maramag. They will represent the country in the 2nd World Cyber Games (WCG) in Daejon, South Korea from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 where more than 1,500 gamers from 53 countries will compete for prizes totaling $300,000. The 1st Philippine Cyber Games Challenge is Samsung's way of tapping the talents and energy of the Filipino youth.

YOUNG STORYTELLING WINNER
Dwight Garvy B. Tan, son of Gary and Dr. Marilou Tan of Iriga City, won 1st runner up in the impromptu storytelling contest Sept. 4 to 8 in Baguio City. Dwight is a grade 3 student of the Holy Child Educational Center in Iriga City. He was the youngest among the participants from 48 schools all over the country. The storytelling contest was sponsored by the Children's Museum and Library Inc.

Financial futures seminar seen to boost stock market

KNOWLEDGEABLE financial circles hail as timely the organization and holding of the two-day seminar on financial futures/derivatives, the hottest financial instruments traded in the world today ($6 billion daily), titled "Preparing for the Golden Age of Financial Futures/Derivatives," on Nov. 27 and 28 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko by the Institute of Continuing Legal Studies and Education, the first of its kind to be held in the country.

The seminar is specially designed to clear the cobwebs surrounding futures/derivatives markets which impede the country's financial as well as economic growth and development, and to discuss in layman's language the nature, concept and mechanics of futures/derivatives markets and their impact on the local financial system and on the economy.

More importantly, the November seminar is intended to show, in pesos and centavos, how securities brokers and dealers, currently complaining of a sagging stock market, as well as other financial market intermediaries, such as bankers, portfolio and fund managers, securities and money market dealers and brokers, can materially benefit, with minimal additional operating capital, from participation as commodity futures commission merchants in an organized futures market

For those who are not engaged in financial intermediation but are involved in transactions and investments in foreign exchange, securities or the settlement of foreign exchange obligations, as well as savers and owners of substantial peso and dollar deposits and "hot money" or foreign exchange portfolios, which amount to one and a half billion dollars at any given time, the seminar will teach them how to hedge their transactions and investments to avoid or prevent financial losses as a result of fluctuating peso-dollar conversion rates, stock market prices and interest rates.

For registration and further inquiries, call the Institute of Continuing Legal Studies and Education at 721-3470/725-1481 and 724-0595, and look for Donna Mendoza, Manressa Ibañez or Colen Romero. E-mail ocampolaw@mydestiny.net.

Product FILES

McDo's magic drink

HAPPY MEALS are happier and magical with McFizz—McDonald's new fun-flavored beverage especially made for kids. Two kinds are available: Green Blast and Cool Blue.

Experience magical moments when your child stirs in McFizz in his Sprite. See the look of wonder in his eyes and his delighted smile as he watches his drink change color, bubble and fizz. And don't be surprised if he likes the taste, too. In fact, you may want to get your own McFizz and prime yourself up for an exhilarating new taste.

Yes, McFizz is as flavorful as candy or ice cream—and just as safe.

It's a colorful change to your Happy Meal!
McFizz
Cool Blue
Green Blas

THE SITE FOR GARFIELD FANATICS
For Garfield fans surfing the Internet, there's now a website all about Garfield. The website features funny comic strips, and, of course, the colorful pictures of the world-famous feline. You can actually subscribe and become a Garfield member, and receive the comic strips daily. You can even have your own e-mail address under the Garfield website. And then there are the fun activities such as crosswords and go fish. And in the real, physical world, Garfield fans were treated, too. The Garfield Mania dedicated three afternoons for Garfield addicts spent in games with Garfield. Kids danced with Garfield, hunted for treasure, painted their faces, took pictures and joined in Shakey's pizza-eating contest. Celebrity DJs Lambert and Teta of Magic 89.9 hosted the event. Check out Garfield at www.garfield.com.

Cubao ginseng store reopens

INSAM Corp., the country's exclusive distributor of Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng products, reopened one of its top branches Cubao Red Ginseng Center. The formal reopening took place Oct 1, which was led by new manager Annie T. Lalo, a young but dedicated businesswoman. With the new management, Insam promises a bigger and more improved Cubao Red Ginseng Center always ready to serve new and loyal patrons alike. Cubao residents and those in nearby areas can once more avail themselves of Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng products at the branch. Its products come in various forms, such as KRG extract, KRG capsules, KRG Tea, KRG Tonic and soap. Visit the branch at Room 201 Vi-La Building, 598 Edsa, Cubao near Farmer's Plaza and SSS Cubao, or call 421-7806/0919-4439966.

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JOSE NOLASCO MASUCOL

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 26, 2002 at the age of 94.

His loving wife, **LEOCADIA**; children, **JOHNNY & FE NG, ROMEO & JOSEFA LABRA, ELIZAR & AGNES MASUCOL, ROGELIO & LITA MASUCOL**, and **WENCESLAO & VIRGINIA LOBITANIA**; brothers and sisters, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule to be announced later.

The family of

Araceli "Cely" Sinsioco Rivera Illescas

OF NIUGAN, ANGAT, BULACAN

Announce with deep sorrow the demise of their beloved mother who joined our CREATOR on October 27 at the age of 87

Born July 10, 1915 and wife of **ANGAT EX-MAYOR FRANCISCO F. ILLESCAS, SR.** (+); Children **Manuel (+), Francisco Jr. & Isabelita, Miguel & Andrea, Josefina and Ramon**; brothers & sisters and in-laws **Cenon (+) & Mercedes (+) Rivera, Carlota (+) & Manuel (+) Villaroman, Celso (+) & Felizarda Rivera**; grandchildren **Johanna, John Michael, Joseph Emmanuel, Ivy Lorraine, Francis Emmanuel, Jaymee Christine, Sharol Kathe & Abegaile.**

Her remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart St. corner Kamagong St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on October 30, 2002 at the Niugan, Angat, Bulacan Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In loving memory on the 23rd Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved

Constancia M. Mascariñas

(Sept. 3, 1911 – Oct. 28, 1979)

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance Psalm 112:6

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ATTY. ORLINDA ANGELA A. CASTRO

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 24, 2002.

Her loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for her eternal repose and happiness of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on October 28, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

HORACIO V. MARIANO

Peacefully joined his Creator on Oct. 17, 2002 in New York, USA

His body lies in state at 7426 Infanta St., Makati City.

His loved ones request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass (St. Peter and Paul Church, 5539 DM Rivera St., Makati City) at South Cemetery, Makati City.

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John 14:6

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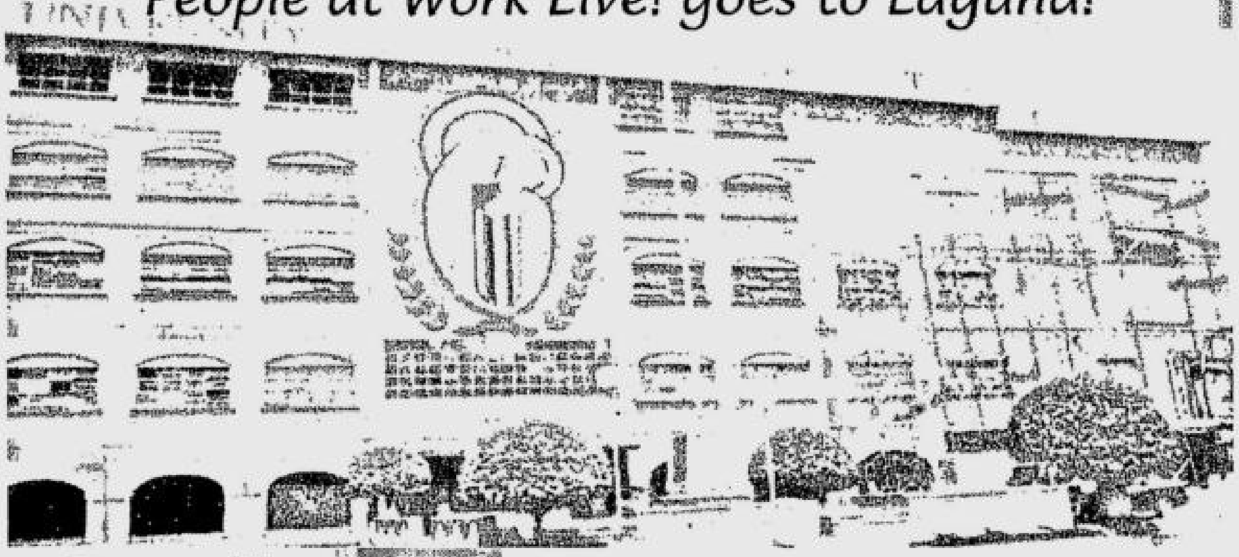

Philippine Daily Inquirer

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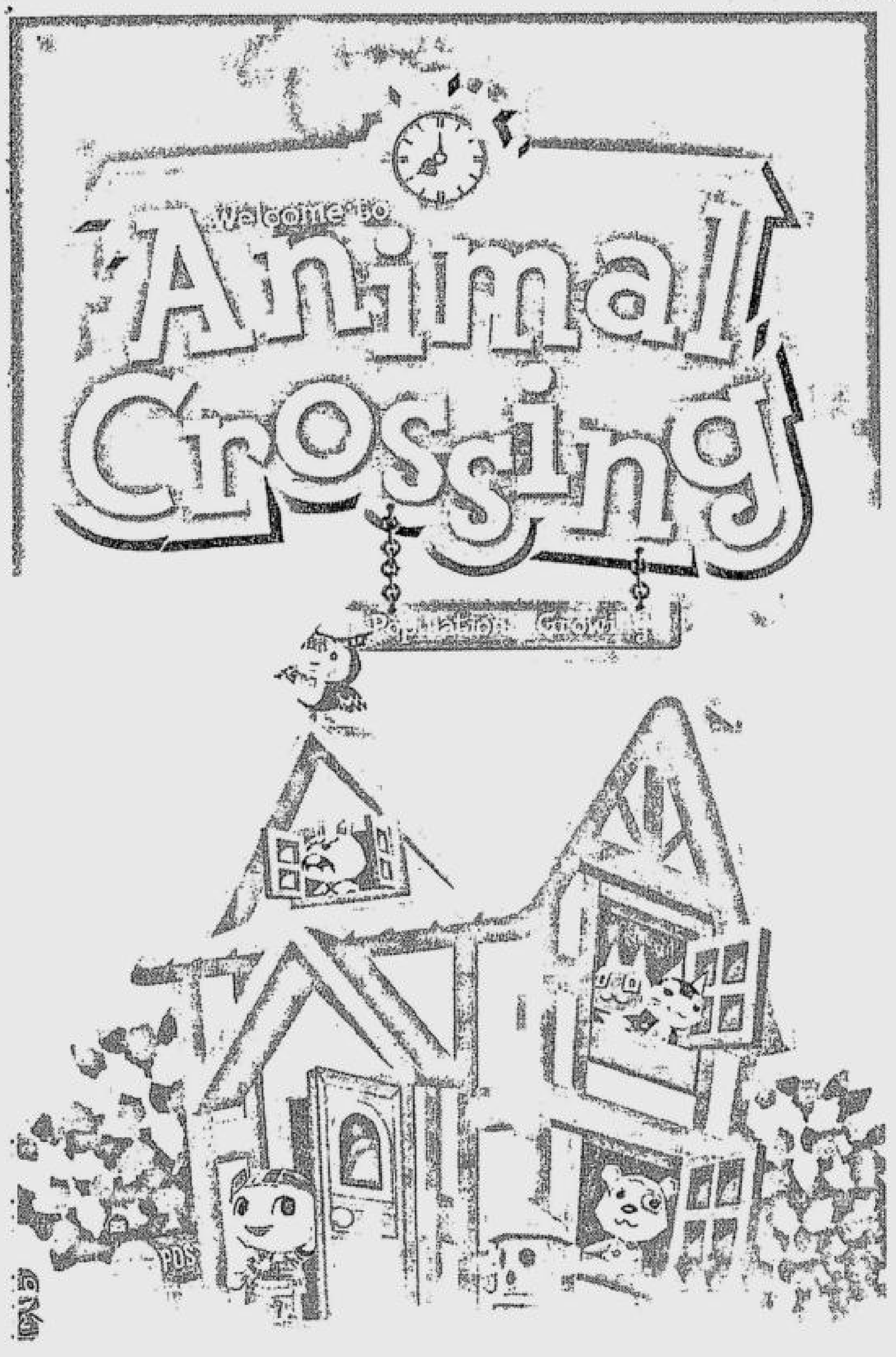

By Leo Magno

ON THURSDAY it will be Halloween, and my wife Cristy and I have yet to buy enough candies for trick-and-treaters. We know all of our neighbors in Blue will be wearing the same pumpkin masks, and if we guess which one of them is Mayor Tortimer, we're gonna get a surprise.

At the same time we have to redecorate our respective houses because the Happy Room Academy has been giving us low points for interior design. I still lack one more Mega Oombloid upstairs and one Mega Lamentoid in the basement. I wish I hadn't sold the one I dug up on Acre B-3 for a mere 800 Bells. Anyway, the peach trees have borne fruit once more, and so I can sell them for 500 Bells each in Babyland where our son, Diego, lives with his cousin Kaipo. His other cousins—Miko and Robbie—live with us in Blue.

Have I lost you?

That's because I was talking about another world—one which exists in the Nintendo GameCube. I'm talking about Animal Crossing, that unique real-time life game developed by Satoru Iwata and Takashi Tezuka for Nintendo. In Animal Crossing, you get to settle down in a forest town populated by quirky, talking animals—such as an ugly talking Gorilla named Cesar who, for some reason I cannot comprehend, always refers to me as "highness."

We review this game on the GameCube

The fun starts when you get off the train and Tom Nook, a raccoon merchant, meets you at the station. You pick one of four houses and pay it off from Nook by doing errands for him. Why one out of four? That's because up to four players can play in each town in Animal Crossing. Players, however, have to play alternately; the game has no simultaneous multiplayer feature ala Gauntlet or Hunter.

In my case, Cristy and I moved into a town we decided to call Blue. The game then loads at random the animal characters, fruits, trees, insects, fish and other elements which will populate the town. Each town you create requires 59 blocks' worth of memory storage—or an entire standard memory card 59—good for four players (Animal Crossing comes with one free memory card). After that, Cristy's nephews Robbie and Miko moved in with us in Blue. We then created another town called Babyland in another memory card, and then created a house for Diego. Later on Kaipo, Diego's cousin, joined him in Babyland. If you want to get rid of a player, you can demolish his or her house and then create a new character.

So now we had two towns—Blue, inhabited by Cristy, Leo, Robbie and Miko; and Babyland, inhabited by Diego and Kaipo (plus of course the kooky animals around us who serve as our neighbors). If you place both memory cards in both GameCube slots, you'd be able to travel from one town to another via train. That's when we cross-pollinated cherries and peaches, because they're priced differently from one town to the next. An out-of-town fruit would fetch you 500 Bells instead of the 100 Bells Tom Nook would give you for a local fruit (the "Bell" being the currency at Animal Crossing).

While traveling on the train you'll meet weird cats—including one named Blanca who doesn't have a face. She'll ask you to draw a face for her using a Windows Paint-like mini program. But when you travel back and forth often, you get tired of the same old crap Rover the pussy and Porter the chimp always tell you.

Since you have to pay off your house, you have to run errands for Tom Nook and your neighbors who, hopefully, would give you furniture, clothing, rare fruits or other items you can either use or sell. You can also go to the beach and collect seashells and sell them, or dig up fossils and treasure. But to dig, you need to buy a shovel. And since that day only one shovel was sold at Nook's Cranny, I had to share it with my wife. I can then save and quit my game, then she would play her character. She can then go to my house, talk to my Gyroid assistant (a gyrating answering and storage machine in front of each player's house), and retrieve the same shovel I used in the previous game. You can also catch insects (in which case you'd need a net) or fish (in which case you'd need a fishing rod). Strangely, catching insects and fish is actually fulfilling.

A player can customize his or her character according to gender and clothing, and you can furnish your house however you please (you'd even get mail from the Happy Room Academy inviting you to enter a contest where they'd give an award to the best-looking home). Once you pay off your first mortgage, you can "level up" and have your house remodeled, but it's gonna be costly. This reminds me of "Level Up," that online game from Korea being introduced in the Philippines where players reside in Ozworld, also a virtual town.

Like Level Up, communications play a central theme in Animal Crossing. You are encouraged to write and send gifts to your neighbors and they'd reply with a gift of their own. To do this, you can go to the post office to send your mail, but not until you pick up or buy stationery to write your letter on. I discovered that the game doesn't recognize what you write or what kind of present you attach to your mail, and so you can attach a present of very small value and get a bigger one (like furniture) from the recipient. And don't try to mail fish, insects or turnips. The post office won't accept them.

The game also randomly sends a note from the recipient which says your letter was unintelligible. This is no doubt a way to try to catch you if you're typing gibberish. Neighbors will also advise you to be careful about what you write because they have a tendency to move from one town to another, in which case your letters might be read by others. In my case, some of the townsfolk at Blue transferred to Babyland and vice versa. To solve potential monotony, new neighbors are injected every now and then.

The communications part of the game becomes neat when you leave notes on the bulletin board for other players to read when it's their turn, or when you send mail in another town or to one of your four playmates.

It also makes use of the GameCube's internal clock. With it, Animal Crossing be-

ANIMAL/B23

Microsoft wins 1st piracy case in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MICROSOFT Philippines recently won its first case against a businessman who was caught using counterfeit copies of the company's software.

Harold Chua of Triac Marketing was found guilty of violating the country's Intellectual Property Code by Judge Antonio Eugenio of Branch 24 of the Regional Trial Court in Manila.

Chua was sentenced to one year imprisonment and fined P50,000 for copyright infringement, Microsoft said in a statement.

Philippine authorities led by the National Bureau of Investigation raided Chua's office in Novaliches, Quezon City in 1998.

During the raid, the authorities obtained two copies of unlicensed Microsoft Windows 95. These were eventually used as evidence against him. Chua filed a petition in court to "quash the search warrant" in 1998, but the petition was denied after a year.

In 1999, the Department of Justice issued resolutions for the filing of criminal charges against Chua.

"This is definitely a victory for all those fighting against piracy and for software companies in particular. Moreover, this is an indication that the authorities in the Philippines are serious about software crime," said Rebecca Ho, spokesperson for Microsoft Corp.

Christopher Lim, legal counsel of Microsoft Philippines, said cases such as these have faced delays, and have often been settled out-of-court.

"Since our legal system places a high priority on the constitutional rights to due process, some copyright owners have faced delays of up to seven years in the resolution of their cases," Lim said. "In most cases, infringers abuse this right by resorting to dilatory tactics in the progress of cases."

Microsoft said the conviction of Chua signals a significant step in its nationwide crackdown in the Philippines against companies engaged in sale and distribution of its unlicensed products.

Since the implementation of the new IP Code, penalties have increased significantly from those under Presidential Decree 49.

Those found guilty of violating the new code can be imprisoned from one year to nine years and face fines ranging from P50,000 up to P1.5 million.

Since 1995, the Business Software Alliance, an anti-piracy trade association, through local authorities, has led raids against local firms and has subsequently filed charges against companies using and selling illegal software.

According to the organization, the piracy rate in the Philippines has increased to 63 percent in 2001 from 60 percent in 2000.

Macapagal to present semiconductor industry roadmap in Silicon Valley

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to meet with US-based semiconductor and electronics firms in Silicon Valley to present the Philippine semiconductor industry roadmap, a Filipino executive told reporters.

Following her state visit in Mexico for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, Ms Macapagal and delegates representing the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), will discuss the roadmap with the American Electronics Association (AeA) and the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), according to Ernie Santiago, executive director of Seipi.

"The meeting will deal mostly with confidence-building for the Philippine semiconductor industry," Santiago said.

Meanwhile, he said that Ms Macapagal's visit to Silicon Valley is "a good move" that could boost the local industry's prospects amid a global economic slump. Electronics is the country's best-peforming industry in terms of exports. Santiago also said Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas will be joining the Seipi delegates in a conference with possible American locators.

Seipi recently laid down an industry roadmap that projected to increase the country's electronics exports to $100 billion in 2008.

The roadmap was conceived after consultations with the government, through the Department of Trade and Industry which suggested the need for a master development plan to help sustain the Philippine electronics industry.

Seipi eventually commissioned international firm Deloitte Consulting to conduct a study to determine how the local electronic firms could achieve such an ambitious target.

SIA is a trade association representing the US microchip industry. Member companies comprise about 90 percent of US semiconductor production and employ a domestic workforce of more than 284,000.

AeA is the United States' largest high-tech trade association, with more than 3,500 member companies that span the high-technology spectrum, from software, semiconductors and computers to Internet technology, advanced electronics and telecommunications systems and services.

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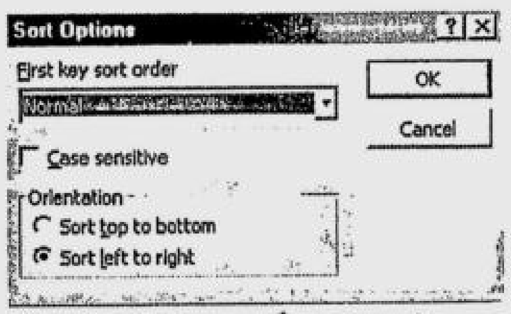
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Horizontal sorting in Microsoft Excel

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

DID you know you can sort your Microsoft Excel worksheet horizontally? Here's how:

(1) Open your worksheet.

(1) Click on any cell in the range of columns that you want to sort.

(3) Go to "Data" then "Sort." The "Sort" dialog box will be displayed.

(4) Click on "Options." Under "Orientation," select "Sort left to right" then click "OK."

(5) You'll be back in the "Sort" dialog box screen. In "Sort By box," click on the row you wish to sort.

(6) You can also click on the down arrow in the "Then By" list boxes and select any additional rows to sort.

(7) Click "OK" and sorting starts.

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Mobile phone of future will look, feel Asian

From page B24

business ideas as Asia increasingly becomes a design and manufacturing center for mobile phones."

The fact that Siemens had to launch an Asian version of a phone already released in Europe and America shows how much phone companies want to localize their products so that the huge Asian market will accept them. The S57, for example, comes with a Chinese language version and soon, in Hindi. This is on top of its GPRS (general packet radio service) capability and an optional QuickPic camera that can be attached at the bottom of the phone.

Such multimedia phone features, says Ray Yam, EVP of Siemens ICM Asia Pacific, are what Asian users are looking for.

"The consumer segment of MMS (multimedia messaging service) is focused on fun and entertainment," Yam says. "This is driven by the youth sector, which is why the S57 is focused on MMS, Java, GPRS and picture-taking capabilities."

This is also the reason why, says Yam, Bluetooth is not present in the S57 unlike in the S55.

"Bluetooth capability is more for the business sector," he says, adding that Asia is not ready for such a feature unlike Europe and North America.

Pauly admits, then, that as the focus of the mobile phone market becomes increasingly Asian, so too, will the features you will find in future cellular phones. And this does not end with design and marketing. The actual production is also taking place in Asia, although this has something to do more with affordable production costs and operational considerations rather than consumer dictates.

A WORKER checks on the circuit boards of a Siemens mobile phone at the Siemens Industrial Park in Pudong, Shanghai. More and more mobile phone manufacturers are making phones according to the needs of the Asian market and manufacturing them in Asia using Asian components and labor.

Handset manufacturers are flocking to this part of the world because of low-cost but high-quality labor. Siemens, for example, has a fabrication plant in Shanghai, and Nokia has one in Beijing. The Siemens plant churns out 14 million units per year, compared to 20 million units in its main plant in Germany and 1 million units per year in Brazil. Half of the 14 million units made in China are exported to Europe and to Asian countries like the Philippines. More important, 75 percent of the mobile phone components assembled in the Shanghai plant are sourced from China and other Asian electronics suppliers.

As Siemens' phones increasingly become made in China—from the design, components and actual manufacture—how would the German company feel now that they are becoming a European company whose products are made in Asia?

"Siemens is not a European company, it is a global company," Pauly says. "When it comes to manufacturing it's not good to stand on just one foot, and you have to think of the competition so you have to outsource."

On top of the huge market potential of Asia, the Western markets are already being saturated, which is why vendors are expanding to Asian shores. The same study by the European MRT Cellular Team shows that the North American and European markets are fast getting saturated. The world penetration rate of cellular phones in 2001 stood at 14 percent, a figure expected to grow to 24 percent by 2005. The US penetration rate is projected to grow from 39 percent in 2001 to 81 percent in 2005. Western Europe's penetration rate is forecast to grow from 63 percent in 2001 to 82 percent in 2005. Such figures reflect the high adoption rate of mobile phones in the above-mentioned regions, which also consequently means that in three years their markets would be saturated, hence the need to expand to Asia.

"All of those individualization features you see on the phone are being driven by the Asian market, by the end-consumer, and that will drive the features you will see in phones in the future," Pauly says. "When you start seeing the end-consumer as a segment on its own, you'll see that designs will have a lot of influence from Asia."

Animal Crossing

From page B21

comes real-time. Day turns into night. Summer becomes fall, fall becomes winter depending on the date. When a neighbor asks you when your birthday is, you better give him the real date because something's bound to happen when you play the game on your birthday. And yes, they do celebrate Halloween and Christmas Day in Animal Crossing. Try playing it on Oct. 31 and Dec. 25 and you'll see what I mean.

The internal clock also comes in handy during scheduled events. For example, Tom Nook's store is open only from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. When you play late at night some of your neighbors would be asleep. A turnip seller named Sow Joan only visits town Sunday mornings. Sow Joan's turnips appreciate in value during different days. When you get them for, say, 89 Bells apiece, you can check Nook's Cranny for the day's turnip price. Thus, you can sell your turnips for a profit. However, after a week your turnips will spoil so you have to sell your shares—or turnips—at the right time. When I discovered this, my wife wanted to buy her own turnips, but when she logged on it was a few minutes past noon, so Sow Joan had already left town, not to be back in another week.

When there's not much to do in town at night, you can always go back to your house and play some classic NES games like Balloon Fight, Clu Clu Land or Donkey Kong. At the start of the game you'll be given two free NES games which you can play inside Animal Crossing. Others will be given away as raffle prizes or presents as you progress in the game. If you have a Gameboy Advance and a cable to connect it to the GameCube, you can even go to the dock and call the Kap'n, a seafarer who'll take you to an island which you can explore and pillage. I haven't tried this option yet, though.

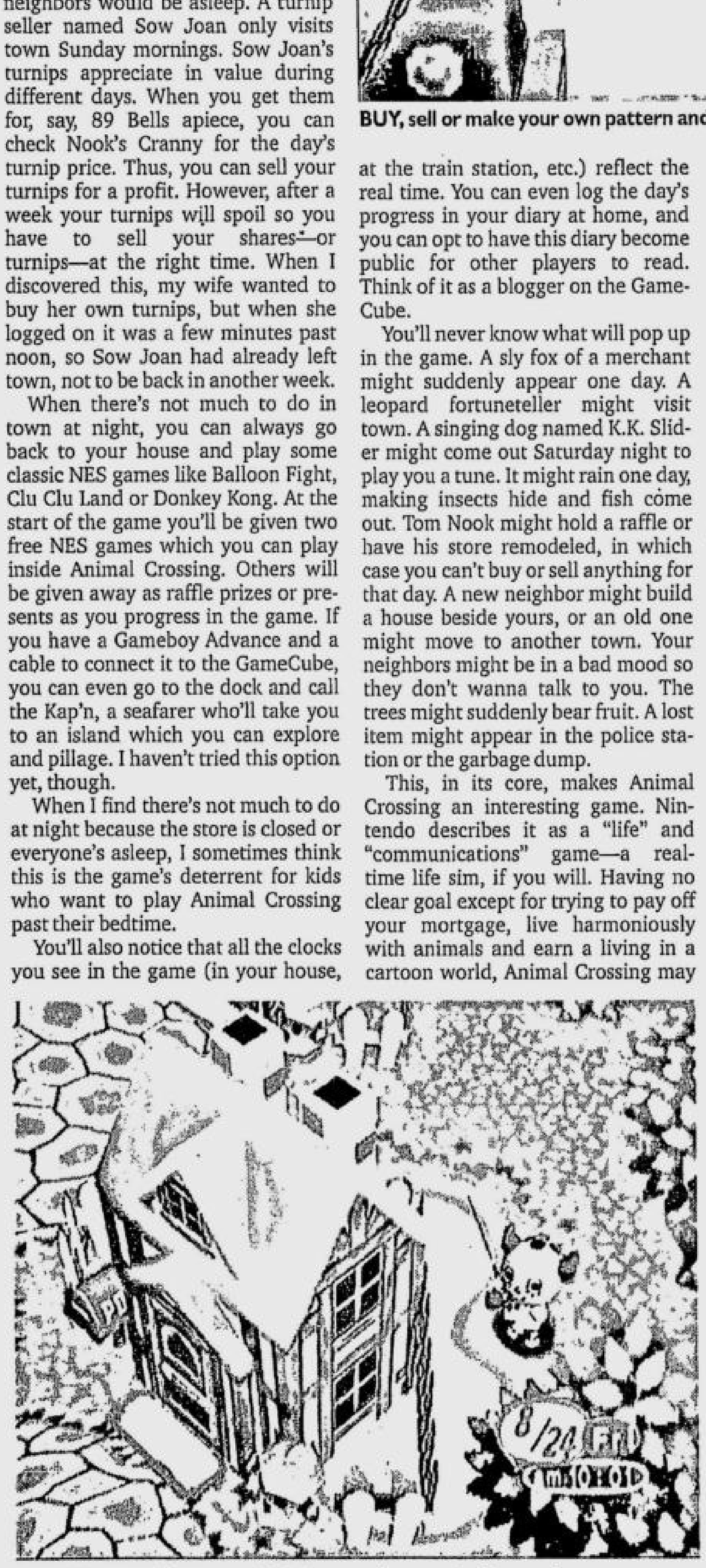
When I find there's not much to do at night because the store is closed or everyone's asleep, I sometimes think this is the game's deterrent for kids who want to play Animal Crossing past their bedtime.

You'll also notice that all the clocks you see in the game (in your house, at the train station, etc.) reflect the real time. You can even log the day's progress in your diary at home, and you can opt to have this diary become public for other players to read. Think of it as a blogger on the GameCube.

BUY, sell or make your own pattern and slap them on your clothes.

You'll never know what will pop up in the game. A sly fox of a merchant might suddenly appear one day. A leopard fortuneteller might visit town. A singing dog named K.K. Slider might come out Saturday night to play you a tune. It might rain one day, making insects hide and fish come out. Tom Nook might hold a raffle or have his store remodeled, in which case you can't buy or sell anything for that day. A new neighbor might build a house beside yours, or an old one might move to another town. Your neighbors might be in a bad mood so they don't wanna talk to you. The trees might suddenly bear fruit. A lost item might appear in the police station or the garbage dump.

This, in its core, makes Animal Crossing an interesting game. Nintendo describes it as a "life" and "communications" game—a real-time life sim, if you will. Having no clear goal except for trying to pay off your mortgage, live harmoniously with animals and earn a living in a cartoon world, Animal Crossing may turn off many console players. It is open-ended, and it looks like you could play it for years on end.



GO fishing, catch insects, pick fruits or collect seashells to make some money.

I am reminded of a similar game called "Morrowind," another open-ended adventure which sets you off on journeys and errands across various huge towns. But Morrowind is much, much bigger—it's vast. After 127 hours of gameplay I still couldn't finish my first task as a spy. Plus, the merchandising system in Morrowind is much more complex—you can barter, dicker and haggle over dozens of items. So if you've played that game, Animal Crossing is smaller in scope, and it's definitely not as serious.

I usually review games only after I've finished them, but after my experience with Morrowind on the Xbox (which I never got to finish because of its massiveness and open-endedness), I thought I might run into the same problem with Animal Crossing, so I'm writing down only my initial impressions. I'm sure other more interesting characters and events will pop up in my town soon.

So what is my impression of the game so far after playing for more than a month?

Animal Crossing is a unique and relaxing game. Although you have lots of errands to do, fish to catch, insects to pounce on and items to sell to constantly make money, it doesn't pressure you to kill a dragon here or fight a boss there or save a princess over there and it doesn't penalize you for not finishing a quest on time. I even doubt if your character can die in this game. Your time is entirely your own. Just don't reset the GameCube in an attempt to cheat the game if something goes wrong because Resetti the Mole is gonna be at your doorstep the next day.

The idea of communicating with and helping out friends or family in the same town or in another town in another memory card is brilliant. A family of four—or even a solo player—will have months and months of enjoyment with this one. The animals' conversations and verbal interaction with you, however, can become repetitive and annoying.

Animal Crossing is a fun game. It's terribly cute. It's got catchy tunes. And most of all, my wife likes it, too.

More e-mail, more spam in 2006

THE GOOD news is that e-mail messaging will continue to become pervasive in the near future, with the volume of e-mail messages most likely to exceed 60 billion in 2006. The bad news is that a significant portion of these 60 billion messages willl come in the form of unsolicited e-mail messages delivered automatically to electronic mailboxes.

According to research firm International Data Corp. (IDC), e-mail volume will continue to explode as person-to-person e-mail are joined by the rapidly growing number of spam, e-mail alerts and notifications.

IDC projects that the total number of e-mail messages sent daily will exceed 60 billion worldwide in 2006, almost double that of the estimated 31 billion in 2002.

The technology research firm says more than half of these messages will be person-to-person e-mail, while the rest will come in the form of spam or unsolicited e-mail messages.

Meanwhile, bolstering this trend, e-mail services firm MessageLabs in a recent monthly report said that more than 17 percent of all current e-mail messages could be classified as spam. According to MessageLabs, some US companies have it worse, with more than 50 percent of all incoming e-mail messages classified as junk mail.

MessageLabs' data also showed that the manufacturing and engineering sectors in the United States are the hardest hit by junk e-mail, with about 26 percent of all e-mail messages coming in as spam. The health industry comes in next with 21 percent of all e-mail messages classified as spam.

Interestingly, US companies have a bigger problem than their European counterparts as far as spam is concerned, MessageLabs said.

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INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Mobile phone of future will look, feel Asian

By Leo Magno

THE MOBILE telephone of the future will be influenced by the Asian market in terms of size, style and applications despite the fact that the top four mobile handset manufacturers are based in Europe and the United States.

By the end of the year, Asia will have the biggest total mobile subscriber base in the world, making handset vendors flock to Asia in terms of both manufacturing and marketing. A study by the European MRT Cellular Team estimates that by the end of 2002, there will be a total of 373 million mobile phone subscribers in Asia (China, 172 million; Japan, 78 million; rest of Asia 123 million) compared with Europe's 364 million subscribers and North America's 160-million subscriber base.

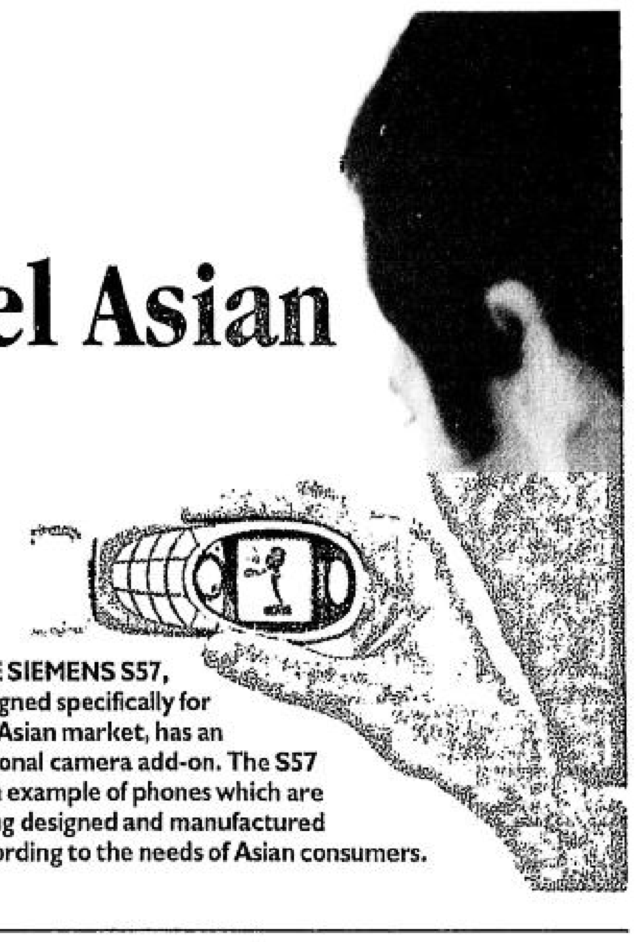
"Mobile phones of tomorrow will be influenced by Asia in terms of design, fashion and research," says Lothar Pauly, board member of the Information and Communications Mobile (ICM) Group of Siemens AG.

The market being predominantly Asian, mobile handset manufacturers are increasing their research, design and manufacturing investments in countries such as China. European mobile phone vendors like Siemens, Nokia and Philips have increased their investments in China, and are starting to localize content and rethinking design concepts based on the Asian consumer's needs.

Siemens, for example, has appointed its Shanghai office as the global headquarters for voice-centric phones—the first time a global headquarters is being placed by the company outside Germany. The Shanghai office works closely with its design agents, and will take care of global production and marketing.

"The future of mobile communications is not determined by technology and networks alone. It's driven by good ideas," says Pauly during the launch of the Siemens S57, the Asian version of the S55 tri-band, multimedia phone. "We are supporting Asian talents and small firms with good

MOBILE/ B23



THE SIEMENS S57, designed specifically for the Asian market, has an optional camera add-on. The S57 is an example of phones which are being designed and manufactured according to the needs of Asian consumers.

It's like driving a Ferrari [illegible] he Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. Wh[illegible] n, you don't need to install [illegible] system to get a dedicated co[illegible] eris. It uses the copper wires [illegible] your telephone. DSL technolog[illegible] Subscriber Line) carries data a[illegible] ency than voice or fax calls, s[illegible] simultaneously be carried in one [illegible] esn't interfere with other telepho[illegible] Caller ID or call waiting. And c[illegible] ble-based systems (essentially [illegible] work where the connection to [illegible] shared), it doesn't fall in perform[illegible] more subscribers connect and do[illegible] security problems arising from p[illegible] ffing.

You'll be hook[illegible]

So if you have a[illegible] myDSL connection, there's no stoppi[illegible] m hosting your own website. If you h[illegible] ganization in school or the communi[illegible] n play your school's victory song [illegible] ming and video audio(skipping [illegible] so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

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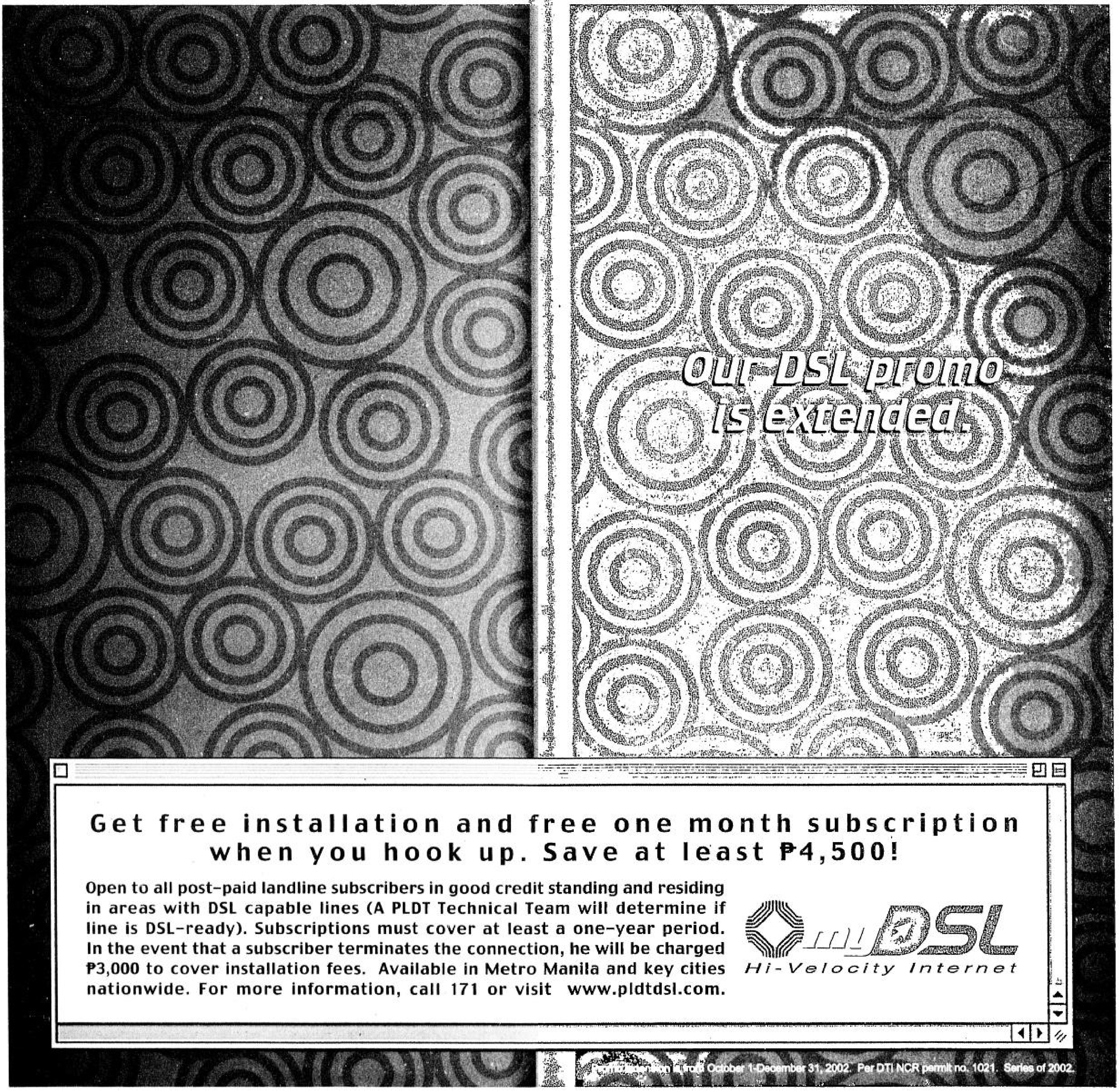
With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.



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BUSINESS*Monday*
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

BATTLE OF THE BROADCAST

Who'll win the right to air the PBA?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHEN the Philippine Basketball Association board governors sit down this week to decide on who would take over the right to broadcast the country's biggest professional sports league, it would pore over bids that they would not have even considered five years ago.

The groups that made an offer for the PBA deal were led by entertainment mogul Vic del Rosario of Viva (which currently holds the TV rights); businessman Carlos "Bobong" Velez of Vintage Television (which first got the PBA contract in 1982) and former GMA executive Bobby Barreiro; and a government consortium headed by presidential PR man Dante Ang and Philip Juico (Channel 13 and Channel 4).

Noticeably absent in the bidding are network giants ABS-CBN and GMA that have coveted the TV contract when Vintage's contract expired in 1997.

A source says the group of Channel 13 and 4 gave the highest offer of under P600 million. The amount, however, was substantially less than the P1 billion paid by Viva when it took over the PBA broadcast midway through Vintage's five-year contract in 1999.

The absence of the major networks and the meager offer for the three-year contract have underscored the fading glow of the PBA which was once the hottest ticket in town.

Over the last three years, TV ratings of the PBA have reportedly dwindled from its once dominant viewers share of 35 percent which even reached peaks of over 50 percent during the best-of-seven finals run.

In the recent championship duel between Talk 'N Text and Red Bull, the PBA registered a lowly 8-percent share as viewers preferred watching soap opera stars crying their hearts out than see cagers shooting the hoops.

Gate receipts do not fare any better as there are substantially more empty seats than spectators in most of the games played during the past few years.

JUICO

DEL ROSARIO

VELEZ

ANG

BARREIRO

A source says the Araneta Coliseum, Cuneta Astrodome, and Ynares Gym (the rotating venues for the PBA games) were only filled up an average of 40 percent of their capacity during regular games versus the previous average of 70 to 85 percent.

In the face of its waning fortunes (not unlike a basketball superstar still playing in the twilight of his career), the PBA board is faced with a dilemma of whether it should choose the winner purely on the offer sheet or whether it should give weight to other factors such as a marketing strategy to lift the professional league's sagging image.

A PBA board of governor, who declined to be named, says the board was divided on how to go forward with the selection of its partner in the broadcasting of the games.

The source says that some governors felt that since the PBA was going through an economic crisis, they should go with the norm and take the highest offer from the government consortium.

But a number of governors were reluctant to give the TV rights to the government because of various concerns ranging from the ability of state-owned networks to meet multimillion contracts to the possibility that it would use the PBA as its main draw in the coming elections.

The source says some governors were leaning toward picking the Velez-Barreiro group because of their long experience in broadcasting.

Velez's Vintage was with the PBA during its golden years while Barreiro has been credited for steering GMA 7 into a worthy rival of ABS-CBN in the ratings game with his innovations in broadcasting, content, production and marketing.

Barreiro was eased out of GMA 7 when the group of Manuel V.

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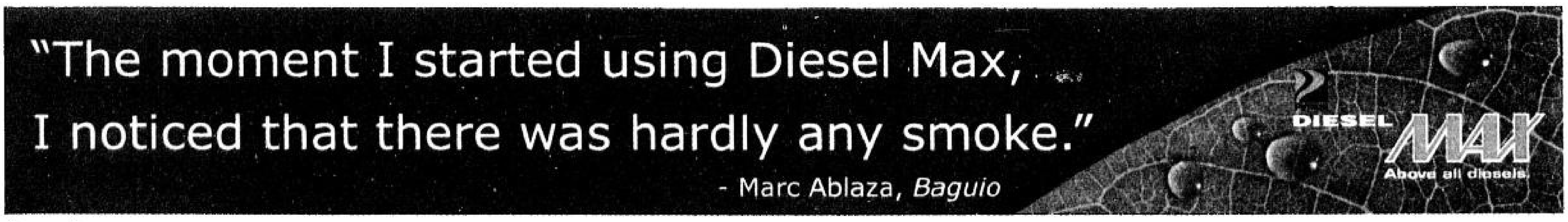

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Trends and ideas in urban development

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Felino A. Palafox Jr.

TO IMPROVE the way our cities and towns are built and continue to grow, each region has to look for an appropriate mix of development options, and apply the best urban design within the context, and scale of both the greater region and the neighborhood.

Planning must envisage the global context, while taking into account local characteristics.

The development options of a region with a high growth demand include:

(1) trying to limit overall growth;

(2) letting cities and towns surrounding the metropolitan center grow uncontrollably until they become one continuous mass;

(3) attempting to accommodate growth in redevelopment; and

(4) planning new towns and new growth areas within reasonable transit proximity of the city center.

The last two of these options are discussed as possibilities for our metropolis.

Infill development

Many cities in Metro Manila are opting for infill developments in their key areas to bring new vitality to the city.

Infill developments allow for the maximum use of idle or underutilized land in the metropolis.

This helps reduce the pressure to expand the city and extend its effective boundaries.

Infill developments help arrest blight and decay of the old centers and inner cities by infusing new investment into these areas.

Infill developments, if made part of a comprehensive investment "package" for the long term health of the city, may ultimately stimulate additional economic returns.

The spread effects of managing the timing, scale and location of infill developments and coordinating this with public and private activities, within a framework for the city, may be huge.

Edge cities

While infill development spells urban renewal to an idle or underutilized land, a corollary development is the establishment of "edge cities."

"Edge cities" are developments in the peripheries of a city.

When properly planned and developed, these peripheral areas will become self-contained communities.

Traffic will therefore be alleviated, pollution shall be checked and other environmental ruins prevented.

In Metropolitan Manila, would-be "edge cities" are those places from Alabang to Canlubang. These would cover Alabang in Muntinlupa, Southwoods in Carmona and Biñan and Sta. Elena in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and in Bulacan.

'Agropolitan' approach

Essentially, the agropolitan (from the words "agriculture"—farm and "polis"—city) approach to development balances development between urban and rural or agricultural areas.

There should be better integration, a more balanced relationship between the cities and the farms so that communities and town cities are still close to the farm.

The approach is not exactly novel since this type of development began way back in the Middle Ages.

Its practice, though, continues in southern France and in many parts of Europe where farm communities or villages have amenities of towns and cities.

The amenities may include the presence of all utilities as well as places for retail, leisure, education, entertainment and worship.

This approach will hopefully discourage rural-urban migration to metropolitan areas and draw lessons from the urban problems obtaining in Metro Manila.

In effect, this agropolitan approach encourages the dispersal of urban development in regions outside of Metro Manila.

Affordable housing

We build monuments for the dead but we cannot even provide decent housing for the living.

The urban poor have been the victims of exclusionary zoning for more than 400 years of town planning and zoning in the Philippines.

They have been forcibly relocated far away from their places of work or excluded from new developments.

To create balanced communities within the metropolis, there would be a variety of housing types, of various affordability brackets and ownership arrangements.

In providing for affordable housing, among the critical issues are site location, proximity to jobs and schools and other urban communities, the setting of design standards, and medium-rise buildings versus single-detached housing.

Affordable housing, located near employment centers and sources of livelihood, allows for higher occupancy rates.

Limited resources for transport of income groups availing of affordable housing makes the concept of bringing together place of residence and place of work, especially important.

Uniform/consistent design standards are necessary to ensure that, in the effort to reduce construction costs to a minimum, the livability of the housing units is not sacrificed, given that occupants of affordable housing often have at least five members within the household, not counting cases where extended families share the dwelling unit.

Also, within the metropolis, medium-rise buildings are highly desirable, considering the scarcity of land.

Of course, affordable housing also means a comfortable and secure development where the end-users live in joy and peace.

Architectural character

A growing number of establishments go for more interesting architecture and more end-users depend on higher quality of architectural treatment that maximizes the visual interest and impact of structures.

Gone are the days of the "cookie cutter" type of housing development.

While the architectural character is diverse, the design of the development is coherent.

Surely a dynamic design intermixes different density houses within a neighborhood—from single-family residences to duplexes to townhouses to apartments.

Commercial centers

Future commercial centers and shopping malls will be more like cities and will be part of integrated mixed-use and multi-use developments.

Shopping malls will occupy a more prominent position in their communities than they do today.

As technology encroaches on everyday life, shopping center will feed a hunger for human contact, for a community interaction.

Shopping centers, furthermore, may also provide a respite from high technology by offering park-like garden settings.

Thus a developer will have to do more than simply build it so that people will flock to his shopping mall.

Challenge

The challenge for shopping centers is to differentiate in-person shopping from any other retail mode and to offer a variety of options and experiences to be worth going out for.

As it is happening at present, shopping malls have been transformed into "city center" or "town center" where hundreds of thousands of people go for a number of reasons.

Apart from shopping, people enjoy "malling" since they meet other people there (numerous teenagers and young adults have made malls as "dating" shop) or do activities there that, in the past, were confined to far inaccessible places.

With shopping centers expanding into a kind of microcosmic or mini city, developers may consider juxtaposing retail to transportation stations and convention centers—where all parties benefit from the high traffic and density they create together.

Shopping malls will expand to include hotels offices and residential spaces and bridges to transportation.

Planned communities

In the face of the increasing challenges posed on the health and vitality of our cities, a growing number of planners and architects are seeking to design communities that have a stronger "sense of place."

These communities, envisioned to be more humanized and more responsive to present-day needs and future growth, look on a more compact pattern of development.

These would be mixed-use (where residential areas are close to places of employment, commerce, leisure and worship) with a strong pedestrian orientation; active civic and community life; closer links between land use and public mass transit and higher housing densities.

Developing a large tract of land which ranges from a few to a few hundred hectares, master planned communities offer irresistible opportunities for a comprehensive plan of a new town, a new community, or a new neighborhood.

A satellite city, for example, is projected to relieve the burgeoning metropolis of some of its urban pressures.

'Aerotropolis'

International gateway airports will be as important to urban development in the 21st century as automobiles/buses/trucks, road-based transport were in the 20th century; trains/railways in the 19th century; ports, rivers/water borne transport were in the 18th century.

The cities of the 21st century will develop around transportation facilities that serve people and cargo leading to a new aviation-linked urban form: The Aerotropolis.

John Kasarda of Urban Land Institute cited the economic impact of airport hubs.

These airport hubs include Dallas-Fort Worth, in Texas, Duller near Washington D.C., Los Angeles and others.

Kasarda discussed how the aerotropolis of tomorrow will be created.

(The author is a member of the board of governors of the Management Association of the Philippines, co-chair of the MAP environment and urban development committee and principal architect and founder of Palafox Associates. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph).

Who'll win the right to air the PBA?

Pangilinan took over the TV network.

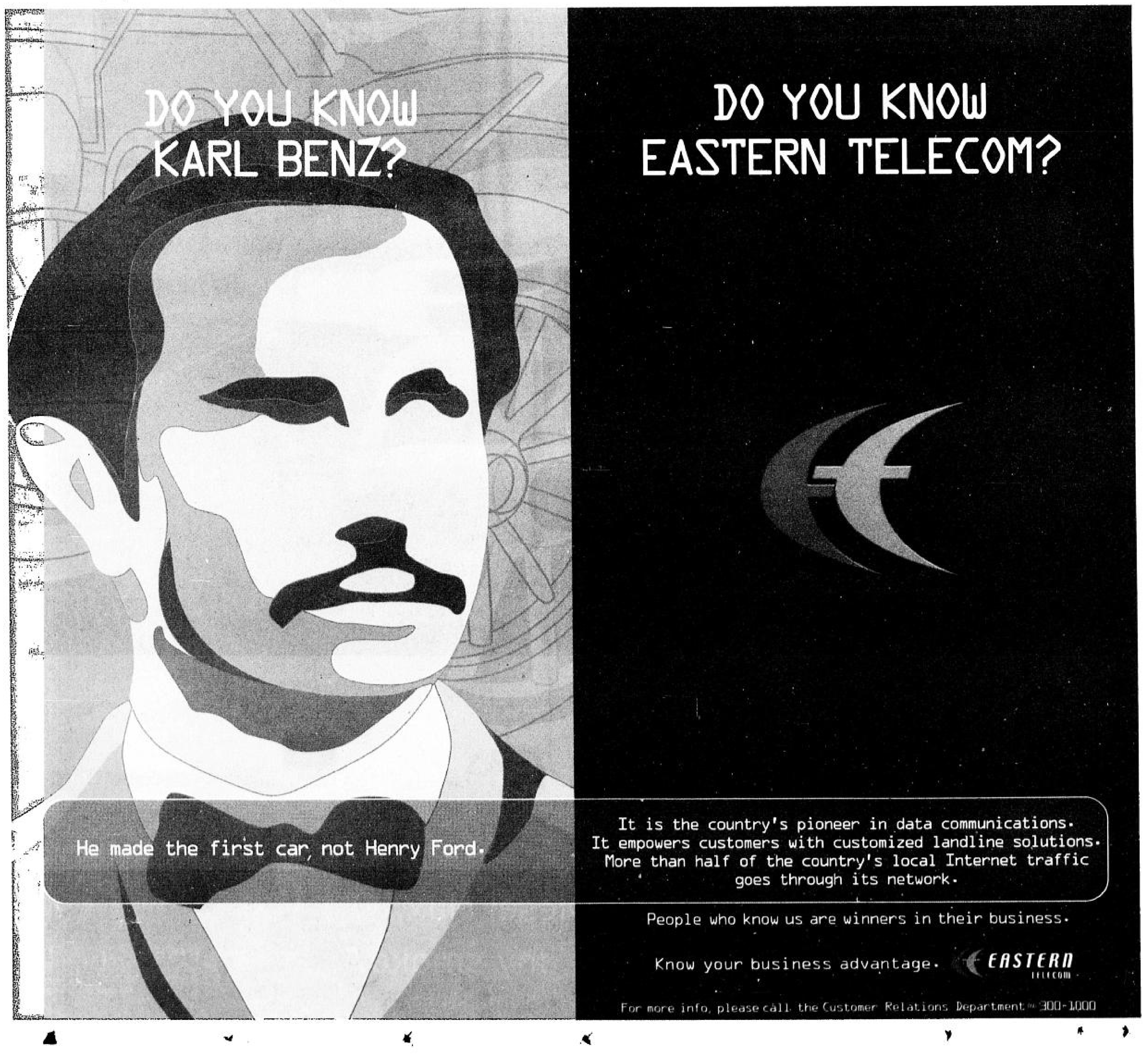
But a major drawback to the offer of the Velez-Barreiro group is its meager offer for the PBA TV rights which was reportedly the lowest among the offers made.

A PBA team official says the group's offer reflects its low confidence in the PBA franchise and that it should raise its bid for the board to even consider their offer.

As the PBA board reviews the offers it has on the table, the governors have to consider whether the best offer should be based on the highest bid or the most potent bidder.

Should its priority be to make the PBA profitable through a lucrative contract or make the PBA marketable with a re-energized image?

In pondering the PBA's future, the teams will have to re-examine why they joined the league in the first place.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Anti-poverty project aims to give poor a voice

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE SCENARIO is familiar. A politician has millions in pork barrel funds at his disposal, so he uses the money to construct a road in his province. He makes it appear that the people owe him their gratitude, and billboards herald his name.

This is known as the "elite capture" of funds meant to fight poverty. Public sums are used to lure the votes of the poor, keeping some rich families in power.

The problem is more widespread in rural areas, where the poor account for almost three-fourths of all the poor in the Philippines.

Poverty is most severe among small farmers and landless workers. Being the most vulnerable, they are also the most silent and the most deprived of power. Now here comes a government scheme with a difference, empowering the voiceless poor: Kalahi-CIDSS.

Kalahi program

It is part of the Kalahi program, the flagship anti-poverty plan of the administration. Kalahi stands for Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan, or linking arms to fight poverty, a program implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Supported by a $100-million loan from the World Bank, Kalahi-CIDSS covers a fourth of the municipalities of the nation's 40 poorest provinces. It involves more than 5,300 barangays.

Each of the municipalities will get a block grant (P3.5 million to P 13 million per year depending on the size of the municipality) for basic infrastructure and livelihood projects.

Decisions by barangays

The novel feature of Kalahi-CIDSS is its bottom-up approach, inspired by the success of a hit Indonesian program.

The barangays will choose the projects they need and get the needed training. The barangay residents will design the projects, present their proposals and compete for funding. The winners will construct the projects and operate them.

Hence, residents will no longer be passive beneficiaries of government assistance: they will become active citizens.

This bottom-up view is consistent with the World Bank's strategy to assist the country.

"Promoting growth and enabling people, especially the poor, to participate fully in development -- these are the twin pillars of the World Bank's strategy for the Philippines," says Robert Vance Pulley, WB Country Director for the Philippines.

Kalahi-CIDSS supports the second pillar by providing a voice for the barangays.

"Poverty reduction efforts are more likely to be effective and sustained when communities are responsible for activities that affect them," adds team leader Bhuvan Bhatnagar.

The program will provide grants for barangay projects in a competitive way, engaging the community in problem solving. It will thus empower the communities as they plan and implement the projects. And it will improve local governance, making leaders more effective and accountable. All in all, local communities get to participate more in barangay projects that fight poverty.

Engaging the community

The process runs as follows. An army of facilitators is trained by Kalahi-CIDSS, and these professionals are deployed to the target barangays. They explain the program, gather data and make community profiles.

Then they request that the barangay captains convene the barangay assembly. In this meeting the community runs some ideas on what projects to prioritize. They review an open menu of projects.

Then the barangay selects the project that most attends to its needs and creates a team to write the proposal. The facilitators give training on proposal writing and project preparation. The barangay meets again and confirms the chosen project.

Hence the approach is demand-driven: projects are chosen by the people based on their expressed needs, rather than imposed from above. Decisions are made at the barangay hall, not at Malacanang. The program is socially inclusive.

The whole village, not just a few families, are involved in making decisions.

In the end, communities will enjoy new and upgraded infrastructure. They will benefit from the improved delivery of social services.

Most importantly, the project will have created a pool of leaders and skilled personnel who can set up future projects. They will give small villages an assured voice as they deal with big government. *Comments to darroyo@philonline.com*

Asian execs spending less, saving more—survey

HONG KONG—Asian executives are spending less and saving more, with global recession affecting their patterns of behavior, a survey published Thursday showed.

Two out of three Asians are saving money by cutting back on evenings out and holidays, the survey conducted by the Hong Kong-based Far East Economic Review showed.

The survey found that respondents across the region spend more time thinking about creating the right balance between work and play than they do about investments.

The average household income of respondents was $162,000.

Women accounted for 19 percent of reader responses, it said.

Adverse effects

In the previous survey in 2000, nearly 60 percent said they felt more confident about the future than they did the year before.

Now more than 80 percent feel they have been affected by the global recession.

Indonesia and the Philippines are the hardest hit. Less than 10 percent in the two countries feel they have escaped the effects of the downturn.

The Taiwanese are the biggest worriers.

Concerns

Financial security is the major concern for everyone except Filipinos and Malaysians who rate health as their number one anxiety.

In Hong Kong, where unemployment has tripled to over seven percent in the last five years, people are most concerned about job security.

Despite the recession, the average number of nights spent in hotels has risen from 19.7 in 2000 to 22.6.

Australia

Japanese and Australians are the most frequent guests — both spend more than 25 nights a year in hotels, followed by Malaysians and Hong Kong residents.

The average Hong Kong business person is making more trips than ever before, taking an average of 11 flights a year.

The next most frequent flyers are Indonesians and Thais who take to the skies around eight times a year. Filipinos on the other hand fly only five times.

The top business destination is Singapore. Exactly half of respondents said they had been to the city-state.

Belt-tightening

More than 45 percent said they had visited China while over 30 percent said they had been to Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United States for work.

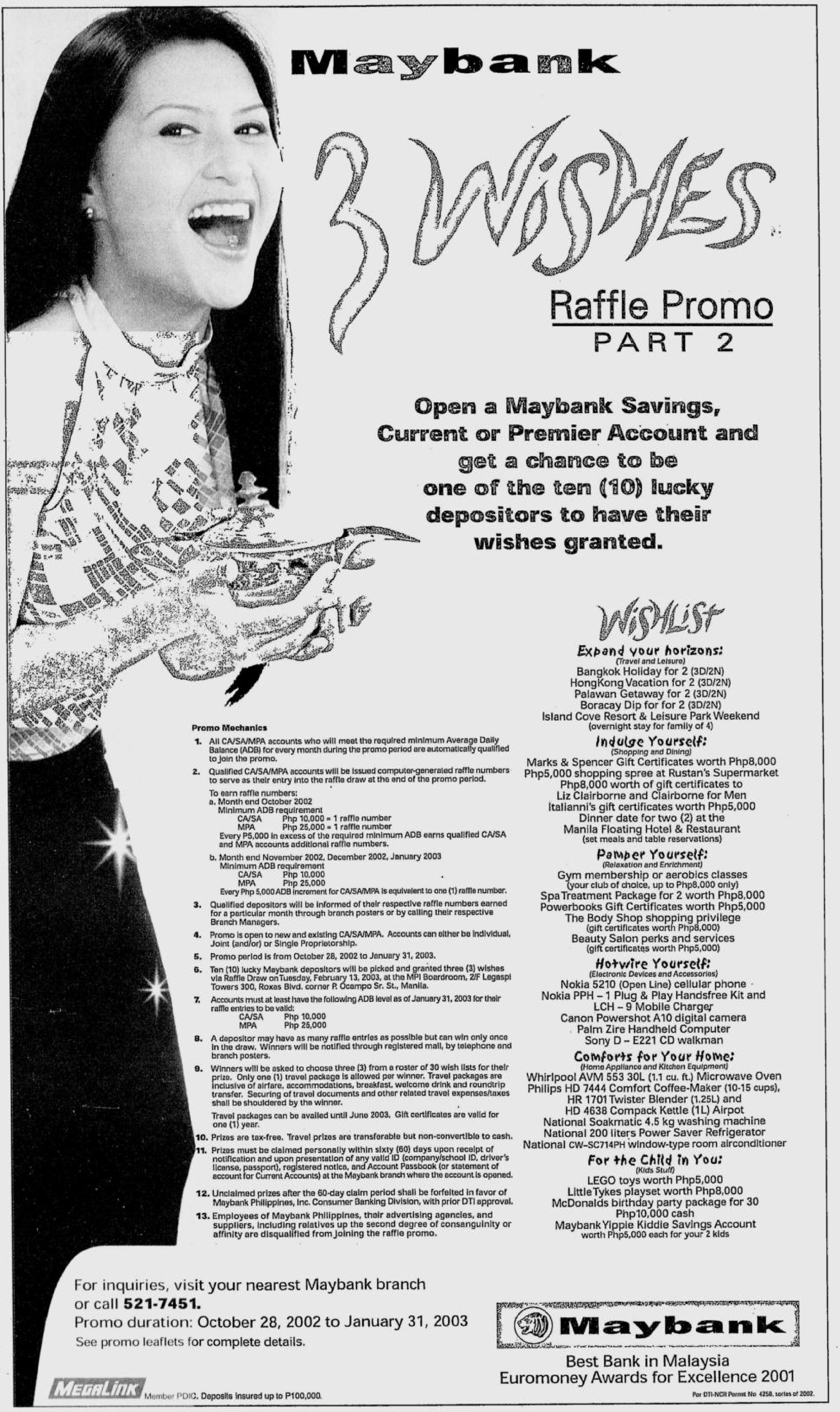
At the same time, there has been some belt-tightening: 40 percent said they had flown economy class on business trips "more than usual" compared with under 30 percent who said they had not altered their travel arrangements.

The survey was conducted before the Bali bombing, however, and there are reports that some Asian firms have now placed a temporary ban on regional travel.

In terms of leisure destinations, China is number one, followed closely by Thailand and Singapore.

The place 42 percent of respondents want to go to on holiday is Australia. Next in popularity are China, the United States, Japan, Britain and Thailand.

The survey, which received replies from 1,238 readers in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia, is in its seventh year. *AFP*



Maybank

3 WISHES
Raffle Promo
PART 2

Open a Maybank Savings, Current or Premier Account and get a chance to be one of the ten (10) lucky depositors to have their wishes granted.

WISHLIST

Expand your horizons:
(Travel and Leisure)
Bangkok Holiday for 2 (3D/2N)
HongKong Vacation for 2 (3D/2N)
Palawan Getaway for 2 (3D/2N)
Boracay Dip for for 2 (3D/2N)
Island Cove Resort & Leisure Park Weekend
(overnight stay for family of 4)

Indulge Yourself:
(Shopping and Dining)
Marks & Spencer Gift Certificates worth Php8,000
Php5,000 shopping spree at Rustan's Supermarket
Php8,000 worth of gift certificates to
Liz Clairborne and Clairborne for Men
Italianni's gift certificates worth Php5,000
Dinner date for two (2) at the
Manila Floating Hotel & Restaurant
(set meals and table reservations)

Pamper Yourself:
(Relaxation and Enrichment)
Gym membership or aerobics classes
(your club of choice, up to Php8,000 only)
Spa Treatment Package for 2 worth Php8,000
Powerbooks Gift Certificates worth Php5,000
The Body Shop shopping privilege
(gift certificates worth Php8,000)
Beauty Salon perks and services
(gift certificates worth Php5,000)

Hotwire Yourself:
(Electronic Devices and Accessories)
Nokia 5210 (Open Line) cellular phone
Nokia PPH – 1 Plug & Play Handsfree Kit and
LCH – 9 Mobile Charger
Canon Powershot A10 digital camera
Palm Zire Handheld Computer
Sony D – E221 CD walkman

Comforts for Your Home:
(Home Appliance and Kitchen Equipment)
Whirlpool AVM 553 30L (1.1 cu. ft.) Microwave Oven
Philips HD 7444 Comfort Coffee-Maker (10-15 cups),
HR 1701 Twister Blender (1.25L) and
HD 4638 Compack Kettle (1L) Airpot
National Soakmatic 4.5 kg washing machine
National 200 liters Power Saver Refrigerator
National CW-SC714PH window-type room airconditioner

For the Child in You:
(Kids Stuff)
LEGO toys worth Php5,000
Little Tykes playset worth Php8,000
McDonalds birthday party package for 30
Php10,000 cash
Maybank Yippie Kiddie Savings Account
worth Php5,000 each for your 2 kids

Promo Mechanics

1. All CA/SA/MPA accounts who will meet the required minimum Average Daily Balance (ADB) for every month during the promo period are automatically qualified to join the promo.
2. Qualified CA/SA/MPA accounts will be issued computer-generated raffle numbers to serve as their entry into the raffle draw at the end of the promo period.

   To earn raffle numbers:
   a. Month end October 2002
   Minimum ADB requirement
   CA/SA Php 10,000 = 1 raffle number
   MPA Php 25,000 = 1 raffle number
   Every P5,000 in excess of the required minimum ADB earns qualified CA/SA and MPA accounts additional raffle numbers.
   b. Month end November 2002, December 2002, January 2003
   Minimum ADB requirement
   CA/SA Php 10,000
   MPA Php 25,000
   Every Php 5,000 ADB increment for CA/SA/MPA is equivalent to one (1) raffle number.
3. Qualified depositors will be informed of their respective raffle numbers earned for a particular month through branch posters or by calling their respective Branch Managers.
4. Promo is open to new and existing CA/SA/MPA. Accounts can either be individual, Joint (and/or) or Single Proprietorship.
5. Promo period is from October 28, 2002 to January 31, 2003.
6. Ten (10) lucky Maybank depositors will be picked and granted three (3) wishes via Raffle Draw on Tuesday, February 13, 2003, at the MPI Boardroom, 2/F Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd. corner P. Ocampo Sr. St., Manila.
7. Accounts must at least have the following ADB level as of January 31, 2003 for their raffle entries to be valid:
   CA/SA Php 10,000
   MPA Php 25,000
8. A depositor may have as many raffle entries as possible but can win only once in the draw. Winners will be notified through registered mail, by telephone and branch posters.
9. Winners will be asked to choose three (3) from a roster of 30 wish lists for their prize. Only one (1) travel package is allowed per winner. Travel packages are inclusive of airfare, accommodations, breakfast, welcome drink and roundtrip transfer. Securing of travel documents and other related travel expenses/taxes shall be shouldered by the winner.

   Travel packages can be availed until June 2003. Gift certificates are valid for one (1) year.
10. Prizes are tax-free. Travel prizes are transferable but non-convertible to cash.
11. Prizes must be claimed personally within sixty (60) days upon receipt of notification and upon presentation of any valid ID (company/school ID, driver's license, passport), registered notice, and Account Passbook (or statement of account for Current Accounts) at the Maybank branch where the account is opened.
12. Unclaimed prizes after the 60-day claim period shall be forfeited in favor of Maybank Philippines, Inc. Consumer Banking Division, with prior DTI approval.
13. Employees of Maybank Philippines, their advertising agencies, and suppliers, including relatives up the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.

For inquiries, visit your nearest Maybank branch
or call **521-7451.**
Promo duration: October 28, 2002 to January 31, 2003
See promo leaflets for complete details.

Maybank
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Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2001

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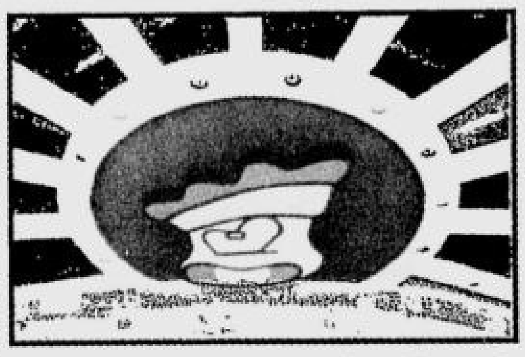
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4258, series of 2002.

Teriyaki BOY®

Not just another Japanese restaurant

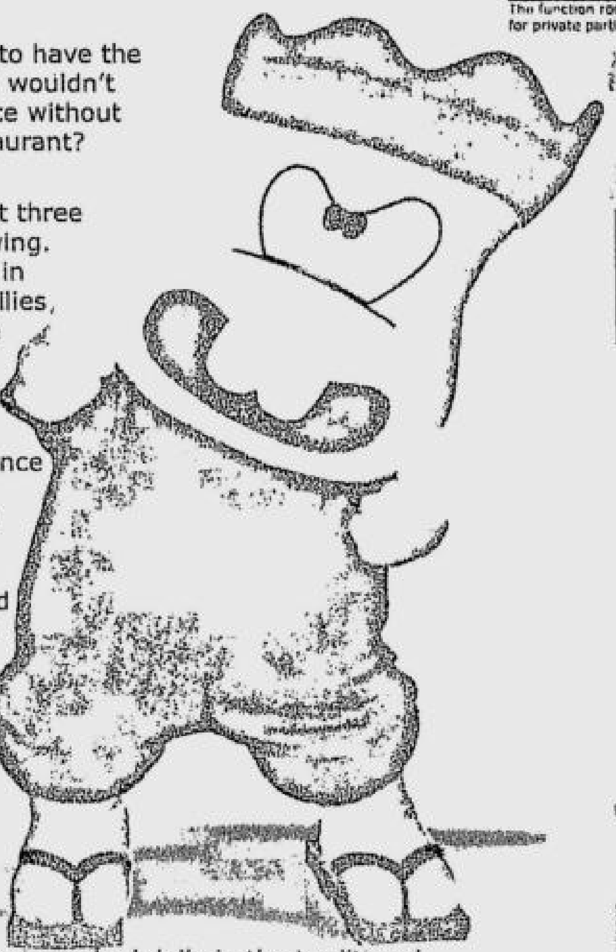
First class meal of real Japanese cooking is always a treat to look forward to. The nice ambience of Japanese-inspired interiors and the service of Kimono-clad staff complete the whole Japanese dining experience.

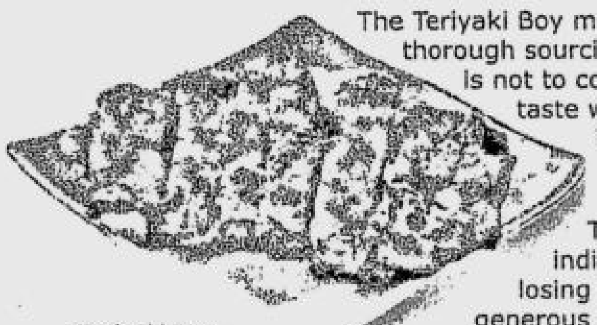


Wouldn't it be even nicer if you can afford to have the same experience as often as you can? And wouldn't it be perfect if you can enjoy the experience without the stiffness of a traditional Japanese restaurant? **Teriyaki Boy** thinks so.

Teriyaki Boy is only a year old but its first three branches has already earned a huge following. Its fun, hip and trendy image has brought in students, professionals, barkadas and families, who have discovered a cool and affordable way to enjoy real Japanese cooking.

Each of the stores in Madison Square in Greenhills, in Tomas Morato, Quezon City and now in Glorietta 3 in Makati exude an upbeat ambience that take away the intimidating atmosphere you find in a traditional Japanese restaurant. The dominance of bright orange and purple colors added to the jovial mood of the interiors. The anime-inspired logo personifies the kind of casual dining Teriyaki Boy wants to convey — tasty, fresh, fast, cheerful and comfy.





Teriyaki Boy Chicken

The Teriyaki Boy menu is a product of an extensive and thorough sourcing of the best ingredients. The aim is not to compromise the authentic Japanese taste with the naturally high prices of imported raw materials. The instant favorite is the ***Teriyaki Boy Chicken***. The fresh chicken choice cuts are individually grilled to a crisp without losing its juiciness. Top the dish with a generous portion of the special Teriyaki Boy Sauce and you have a sumptuous meal that's a good reason to come back for. The Teriyaki Boy Sauce is cooked daily in the traditional Japanese method. Hours of slow cooking bring out the individual flavors of authentic ingredients that make the sauce rich in flavor and aroma. ***Teriyaki Boy Chicken*** is definitely the new favorite. Dine-in or take-out. Some loyal guests even knock on the doors of the restaurants even before business hours.

Tuna Sashimi

Tempura, sushi, sashimi, don buri. Just some of the regular items known to Filipinos. They are made of no special ingredient but its quality will be different with the quality of raw supplies that are used. Teriyaki Boy receives fresh catches daily and prepares each food with the strict supervision of experienced Japanese Chefs. Traditional preparation techniques to preserve quality were handed down by professional Japanese chefs who trained the Filipino cooks and staff.

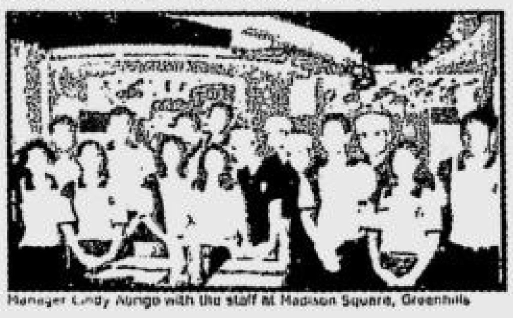
Then there are other little-known Japanese dishes that are worth discovering — unagi sushi, okonomiyaki, chawan mushi, gindara, seafood teppanyaki.

FAST AND FIRST CLASS

For first class food, you go to an expensive fine dining restaurant. For a quick meal, you go to a fast food chain. But can you get first class meals fast without hurting your budget?

Yes you can at **Teriyaki Boy**. Long lines at **Teriyaki Boy** branches are a common scene during lunch and dinner time. But people don't mind queuing outside the restaurant as they claim that it will be worth the wait. And waiting doesn't take that long. Hosts are well trained to manage seats for guests of even big groups. The friendly staff works with clock work speed and precision to make sure customers get their orders fast. So even without reservation, big families and groups just walk in and patiently wait for their seats.

All meals at **Teriyaki Boy** are prepared only as they are ordered. The system of cooking using traditional cooking method with modern kitchen equipment makes it possible to produce fresh products in a short time. "The marriage of old-style Japanese cooking and modern technology has been carefully established in rigid systems and procedures developed by my team and **Teriyaki Boy** management". That was the comment of Chef Ichu Uchi, chief consultant of **Teriyaki Boy** management team on how the restaurants are able to produce first class meals at fast food speed.

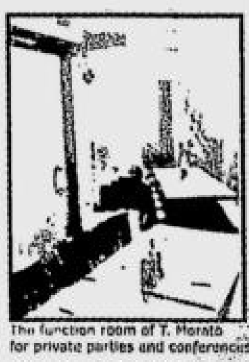


Manager Cindy Aringo with the staff at Madison Square, Greenhills

The ingredients used are natural and of authentic Japanese origin. The restaurant boasts of high quality preparation without the aid of preservatives of MSG. Only the fresh catch is received by the central commissary and the restaurants to ensure that the high standard of food quality is achieved.

Weather you are in a hurry for a short lunch break, trying to impress a date, want to have fun with your barkada or trying to close a deal with a client, you will find the right reasons to be at **Teriyaki Boy**. Get first class Japanese meals at fast food speed. That's a treat you will experience at **Teriyaki Boy** *fast and first class.*

Madison Square, Greenhills. 1st home of Teriyaki Boy



The function room of T. Morato for private parties and conferences

Teriyaki Boy Glorietta 3. The latest addition to the growing family

The price? That will be a surprise. Most customers dine-in several times in a week saying that this is one Japanese resto they can afford to visit more as often as they wa
It's a common scene for the branches to re
reservations for big groups of ten, twenty or even fort
for birthday celebrations or other occasions. For family
gatherings, business meetings, a casual date, a quick
or a hefty meal, customers find Teriyaki Boy restauran
as an ideal and affordable venue.

Futo Maki

Tamago Sushi

California M

Now, first class meal of real Japanese cooking is made
affordable, enjoyable and fast. Discover what others h
enjoyed.

Gyoza

Temaki

Ebi Tempura

"The Teriyaki Boy sauce is cooked daily in the traditional Japanese method."

Chawan Mushi

Unagi

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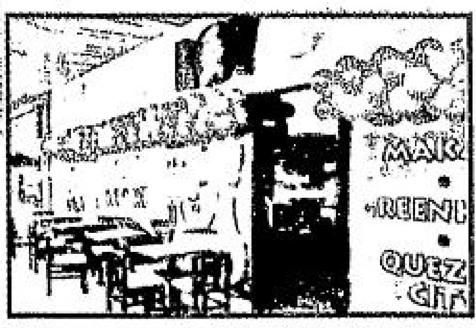
STORE NO. 3 AT GLORIETTA 3

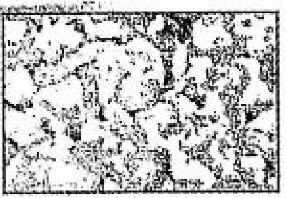
Teriyaki Boy now opens at Ayala Center



Teriyaki Boy is now in **Makati!**

At the heart of the country's premier business district and the best mall in the Philippines comes a unique Japanese treat for food lovers. **Teriyaki Boy** brings to **Makati** what thousands of loyal customers of the first two branches in **Madison Square, Greenhills** and **Tomas Morato, Quezon City** have discovered.

Ayala Center is now host to "not just another Japanese restaurant". The bright colors of **Teriyaki Boy** are sure to bring life to the street even after the mall has closed. The restaurant is prominently located along Rizal Avenue (fronting Landmark) of **Glorietta 3.** Gone are the red and black patterns, the wooden benches, sakuras and cherry blossoms. Instead you will see bright orange, lively lavender and other colors bursting with life and energy. Area is well-lit and the imposing but cutesy face of **Teriyaki Boy** atop the ceiling adds more fun and naughtiness to the place.



Best-seller **Teriyaki Boy Chicken** is still the no.1 in the list of must-eat. You can't leave **Teriyaki Boy Glorietta 3** without being a **Teriyaki Boy Chicken** fanatic. And quickly follow it up with **Temaki, Teppanyaki, Agemono** and the also popular **Seafood Teppanyaki** behind the **Nasu-Abura Itame.**

Treat yourselves to a big meal after a shopping spree at the mall. Re-charge before you hop to the next bar with your friends. Beat the lunch rush and get a quick but hefty meal. Or just drop by for a **'merienda'** of home-made **ramen** or **udon** (we make our own). These are just some of the reasons why people in **Makati** are happy about the coming of **Teriyaki Boy** to this side of the city.

See you all there at **Teriyaki Boy's** Store #3 at the **Glorietta 3.**

With guests Carmina Villaroel and Dino Guevarra

Carmina Villaroel preparing to throw away coins

Inside the store of Teriyaki Boy Glorietta 3

Paparazzis glitter during the opening of **TERIYAKI BOY Glorietta 3** with guests TV personality Dino Guevarra and actress Carmina Villaroel cutting the ribbon.

Message from KAZUHIKO OKAMOTO

T & C Food Co. Ltd

On behalf of the Research and Development Team of T & C Food Co. Ltd of Japan., I would like to congratulate **TERIYAKI BOY** on the opening of their 3rd branch in the Philippines. Your phenomenal success in the short span of time has justified the many years of hard work that both our research teams have worked together for the development of important ingredients in your menu.

Your passion for the achievement of the "home-cooked Japanese meal" is a tribute to our culture's rich heritage in the fine art of cooking. Many Japanese restaurants have attempted the same but have failed to meet the standards as they substituted the ingredients with the nearest alternative. The discriminating taste of the Filipino consumers know when the ingredients used are authentic or just a replacement.

We are proud to be associated with your team and we wish to renew our commitment to support your future growth.

More power and more stores to come!

Message from CHEF ICHIUCHI

In less than a year of operations, Teriyaki Boy's growth has been impressive and inspiring. Your determination to provide authentic Japanese cooking in a different setting has been well accepted.

It is a good site to see Filipinos and foreigners enjoy Japanese food in a non-traditional Japanese atmosphere. The consistency in taste and quality of your products have kept the whole dining experience as Japanese as it should be.

The kind of service in your restaurant provides comfort to customers without the stiffness of a fine dining restaurant. Good food, cozy and cool atmosphere and of course good Japanese cooking. These are the things that will keep your customers coming back.

Thank you for giving me a chance to take part in your success. I look forward to more fruitful years of working with your group.

太った
Teriyaki
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Madison Square, Gre
Tomas Morato, Qu
Glorietta 3, M
VER!
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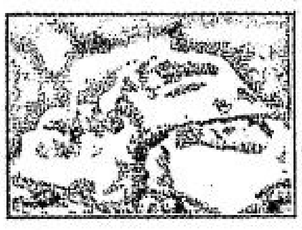
HSBC ties up with Teriyaki Boy

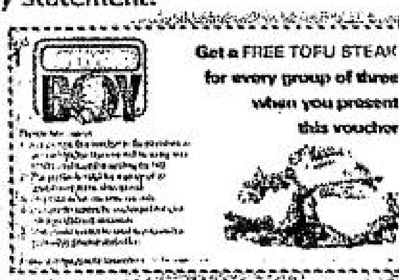
Hongkong Shanghai Bank, the World's Local Bank inked a tie-up with Teriyaki Boy to give their card-holders more reasons to enjoy extended privileges.



HSBC stands for highest quality when it comes to service. They always believe that they should make their clients more satisfied today than yesterday. And in adherence to this vision, they give more advantages to their clients thus the tie-up with Teriyaki Boy came up.

HSBC card holder who will dine in groups of three are entitled to a complimentary serving of Tofu Steak. HSBC card holders are requested to present the promo coupon (sample shown here) upon ordering. The coupons are given to all HSBC card holders through their monthly statement.

This promo starts from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 2002 and is valid at all Teriyaki Boy restaurants.



Get a FREE TOFU STEAK for every group of three when you present this voucher

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

'Strat Ur Stuff' to anticipate strategic market changes

"STRAT Ur Stuff" is a strategic marketing summit to be staged by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) from Nov. 20 to 22. Today, more than ever, companies should review their strategic marketing tools to gain competitive advantage. Your "stuff" like your company and your products, product lines, product mixes and your services should be strategized properly, uniquely, and wittingly enough following the science and art of strategic marketing. Extrapolations in the past are no longer enough. Companies should focus on the market environment facing the firm. The enhancement of research and development could represent an adjustment in strategic capability.

Strategic marketing emphasizes not only projections but also an in-depth understanding of the market environment, particularly competitors and customers. The goal is not only to gain insight into current conditions but also to be able to anticipate changes that have strategic implications. It is in this very competitive scenario that Pana invites you to the Strategic Marketing Summit so you can "Strat Ur Stuff."

Gain new insights on such topics as: the essence of the brand, how a CEO views strategic marketing, the ad agency as a strategist, developing research, product, retail, customer service, and IMC plans, e-marketing, financial planning; and new trends and practices in strategic marketing. Distinguished speakers will come from the various sectors of the marketing industry.

Strat Ur Stuff invites participants from manufacturing concerns, service business establishments, retail stores, advertising and related marketing communications agencies, media companies, research, suppliers, and other strategic stakeholders. The Summit likewise welcomes other key members of the corporate planning team such as people from finance, production and operations and professors and students from the academe.

Strat Ur Stuff and be counted as an up-to-date and innovate strategist. Registration fee is P7,000 and P3,000 for the academe.

Confirmed speakers and their topics are: The Essence of the Brand by Hermawan Kartajaya, CEO of Markplus Strategy Consulting, Research Insights: Beyond the Figures by Menlou B. Bibonia, vice president and manager, corporate marketing and Lolita T. Vargas, marketing research manager of San Miguel Corp., Revisiting Integrated Marketing Communications in Crisis by Robert G. Labayen, managing partner and executive creative director of J. Walter Thompson Co.; Retail Management Planning Through Efficient Consumer Response by Howard D. Belton, chair and CEO of Unilever Philippines.

Creatives on the Edge by David B. Guerrero, chair and executive creative director of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Media Planning with Shoestring Budget by Liezelle G. Maralag, managing director of Starcom Worldwide Phils. Company Inc., Product Planning and Development: Learning from Successful Comebacks by Joey A. Concepcion, president and CEO of RFM Group of Companies and On Customer Service: Do Customers Always Rule the Game? by Pedro N. Dy-liacco Jr., director of communications of Nestle Philippines Inc.

The confirmed session chairs for Day 1 are Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr. of De La Salle University and Cesar Jose Jesena of Ayala Land Inc. For Day 2 is Herbie Sancianco of Marketing Bridges.

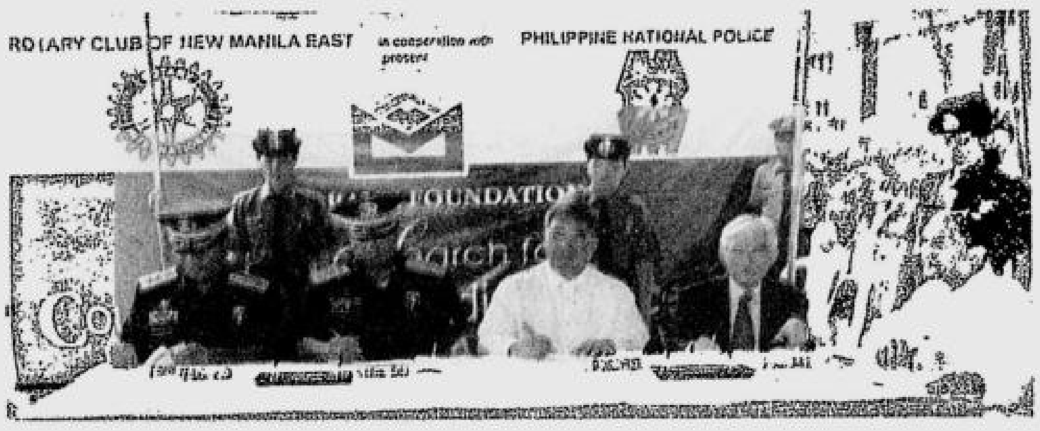
Emcees for Say 1 are Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza, Mike Enriquez and Vicky Morales of GMA-7. Day 2 will see Anthony Pangilinan of Business Works and Boy Abunda of Backroom Inc. taking over emceeing chores.

INQUIRER PANA EVENTS SPONSOR, PRESENTER

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Inquirer Libre will be gold sponsors of the forthcoming Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) 'Strat Ur Stuff' Strategic Marketing Summit and presenters of the Pana Marketing Communications Awards from Nov. 20-22 at the Centennial Hall of The Manila Hotel. Shown during the contract signing, seated from left, were Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, Inquirer vice president for advertising Pepito R. Olarte, and Pana president Gigi B. Rodriguez. Standing, from left, were Pana directors Jojo Samson, Atoy Babasa, Inquirer assistant vice president Kenny Nuyda, Susie Achacoso-Cruz, Jun Alcantara and Beth Flores.

Halloween at Shang Mall

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall celebrates Halloween. On Oct. 26, kids donned their favorite costumes and joined Shang's trick or treat. On Oct. 27, Halloween fun continued with the kiddie face painting sessions. Finally, a Halloween concert party and sale caps the mall's festivities on Oct. 30..Get up to 50-percent discount at selected participating stores and party at the grand atrium from 4 to 10 p.m. with bands Aquarella, Mulatto, Upper Suite, Big Thing, 17:28 and Toy Symphony. Admission to the Halloween concert party is free. For inquiries, call 6337851 local 151.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FOUNDATION

ROTARY-PNP-METROBANK SEARCH FOR COP

The Rotary Club of New Manila East, RI District 3780, in cooperation with the Philippine National Police, presents the Metrobank Foundation Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen. Dr. Placido L. Mapa Jr. (2nd from right), president of Metrobank Foundation Inc.; Danilo V. Fausto (center), president of the Rotary Club of New Manila East, and P/Dep. Dir. Gen. For Administration Clyde Fernandez (2nd from left), representing PNP Chief Hermogenes E. Ebdane, are shown during the signing of the MOA at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame recently for the project that will choose the country's top cops on the basis of their civil and community relations functions. At stake is P100,000 and a trophy for each winner. Also shown are P/Dir. Ricardo de Leon (left), of the PNP Directorate for Police-Community Relations and Dr. Wilson Pamintuan (right), Director of Vocational Service, RCNME.

FQPI LAUNCHES KERIMA

Spearheading the Philippine launch of Australia's Kerima was First Quadrant Philippines Inc. (FQPI). Company president Doyee T. Tumpalan (left) and FQPI chair Socrates SD Tumpalan (right) were joined by Marikina City Mayor Marides Carlos-Fernando in the well-attended affair at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel.

TELECOMS SERVICES CONTRACT SIGNED

A contract for the supply of telecommunications services was signed between BT & T Tel Corp. and IDXNet Computing Pty Ltd of Australia Oct. 10. Present during the signing were, from left, Gil Almendral, network administrator of BT &T, Roberto Tenchavez, president of BT&T, Domingo Tuazon, managing director of IDXNet P/L, and Jorge Vano, vice president for marketing, IDXNet Philippines Inc.

Millions in Super Vulca Seal-Rugby promo

SUPER Vulca Seal and Rugby are stirring up nationwide excitement in their latest and biggest promo, showering over P2 million worth of cash prizes and other exciting giveaways. Dubbed Super Vulca Seal & Rugby's Pares-pares, Doble-doble Panalo, the promo is open to all customers who buy Global Brands products from their favorite hardware stores and other outlets around the country.

It's easy to join. Buy Super Vulca Seal, Rugby contact cement, GLU All contact cement, Tiptop contact cement, Grand Prix contact cement, Quicktite liquid and gel, Loctite Glue Remover, Loctite Glass Bond, Tangit PVC solvent cement, Handee All Purpose Oil, Vulcakote Concrete Waterproofing, El Kapitan Boat Epoxy, and Power Mix Cement Enhancer.

Each of these products comes with a sticker printed with either the logo of "Super Vulca Seal" or "Rugby." Combine these two stickers to form one raffle entry, then seal them in an envelope together with your name, address, and telephone number written on a piece of paper, and drop in designated promo boxes to qualify for the contest.

Over P2 million in prizes will be given away tax-free during the preliminary and grand draws. In the preliminary draw, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners will be picked from GMA, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao areas.

The promo also includes an On-the-Spot/Town Plaza Tour. A Roving Promo Team will be giving away instant prizes and many other delightful treats as it visits various key cities around the country.

The Super Vulca Seal & Rugby's Pares-pares, Doble-doble Panalo promo runs until Feb. 8, 2003.

BITS Clips

SAL's Kaufman in Manila

RON KAUFMAN, the innovator of Singapore Airlines' successful Service Quality Centre, will conduct a seminar in ExportBank Plaza, Makati on Oct. 28. Titled "Building Customer Relationships That Sizzle," this seminar is designed to help organizations develop effective programs to deliver superior customer service, and as a result create solid, enduring relationships with clients. Organized by strategic marketing.and communications firm TeamAsia, Kaufman's presentation will highlight key principles organizations must apply to build their business, achieve superior customer service, increase customer loyalty, create powerful partnerships and build winning teams. Kaufman is also the author of the bestseller "Up Your Service". For details, call TeamAsia at 876-5200, or e-mail mbnuyda@teamasia.com.

More affordable Boracay package

ENJOY Boracay with Sun Village's "Endless Summer" special off-season package, for those who want to enjoy the quieter side of Boracay life. Up to Oct. 30, you can bask in the sun, have some island-hopping fun, dine or just relax in your well-appointed Sun Village room at more affordable prices. This offer is available at The Sun Village's two beautiful and comfortable resorts, the Beachfront and the Hilltop. At The Sun Village Beachfront Resort, a party of three can rest and recharge for as low as P1,600 per person for 3 days and 2 nights. At The Sun Village Hilltop Resort, guests can enjoy Boracay for as low as P800 (triple occupancy) per person for 3 days and 2 nights. Thess packages include standard room accommodation, breakfasts starting the 2nd day, welcome drinks, and roundtrip land and boat transfers. For more information, call the Manila office at 813-1338, 813-7524, or 893-9355, or the Boracay office at 63-0362885541.

MUTYA NG MALABON 2002

Nerizza Anne Manalo Gonzales of Barangay Tonsuya is the reigning Mutya ng Malabon 2002 and Miss Photogenic-Konika. The pageant was recently held at the amphitheater of Malabon May 21. Daughter of proud parents Henry and Vivian Gonzales, Nerizza Anne is on her 1st year proper for Doctor of Dental Medicine at Centro Escolar University. She finished her pre-dentistry course cum laude. With her are (left) Angela Marie De Jesus, 2nd runner up, and 1st runner up Ma. Cristina Palmario.

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LANCER EVOLUTION TOPS QMILE

The 6th leg of Shell-Prospeed's Quartermile Championship Drag Racing drew to a conclusion over the weekend. Dominating the race were old hands of local drag racing Dondi Montecillo of ATI Racing, Ace Vergel of MSF Autoworks and Peng Diaz of Tony Llames Racing. Montecillo, on board ATI Racing's 'Track Attack' Lancer Evolution IV, ran the Quartermile in 12.7 seconds. The event also saw the participation of novice race teams ERL Engineering, JDM Performance and Stripteasers. Montecillo won the Quick 8 category, about a second faster over Diaz. In the Pro Class A category, ATI Racing's Montecillo and Ryan Lee dominated with a 1-2 podium finish. Pro Class B was won by Peng Diaz with a time of 13.6 seconds. Pro Class C was a toss-up between Sonny Ramirez of Stripteasers and Hiro Kotake of JDM Performance. In Pro Class D, Noorliza Abantas of ERL Engineering inched out Michael Chanliongco of MSF Autoworks for a track time of 16.525 seconds. Quartermile is sponsored by Shell, ATI Diesel, ZF, Eibach, Nodalo's Performance Exhaust, 103.5 K-Lite and Shell-Citibank Mastercard.

After RP, SMC sets sights on Australia

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER a conglomerate has established dominance in the domestic market, the obvious step is to expand into new offshore markets and compete in a bigger league.

This is precisely the gameplan of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., the country's first homegrown multinational corporation which now appears to be on the move to make Australia as its bailiwick outside homecourt Philippines.

Founded in 1890 as a brewery, SMC holds over 90 percent of the Philippine beer market.

Its flagship brand San Miguel Beer is among the top three brands in Asia.

Recently, SMC announced plans to spend $140 million to build two new glass plants in Australia, a move which aims to strengthen its foothold in the Asia-Pacific region.

SMC is set to put up the new 250-ton glass plants in Brisbane and Sydney through subsidiary San Miguel Packaging Products (SMPP) in order to complement existing facilities in China (Zhaoquing San Miguel Glass Co. Ltd.) and Vietnam (San Miguel Yamamura Haiphong Glass Co. Ltd.).

Strengthening position

The new plants aim to initially service the packaging requirements of Australian brewers Lyon Nathan and J Boag & Sons. Lyon Nathan is 40 percent owned by Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. of Japan, which, in turn, has a 15 percent stake in SMC while J Boag & Son Ltd. is an offshore subsidiary of SMC.

"Now that we have strengthened our position in the domestic market, we will continue to pursue our goal of becoming a major regional player," said SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

SMC made its first major move in Australia in 2000 when it successfully launched a takover bid for Tasmania-based beer brewer J Boag.

J Boag was acquired lock, stock and barrel through a foreign affiliate for about $56 million, which represented a premium of 60 percent over market prices at that time.

Expansion plans

In its 2001 annual report, SMC said it had benefited from the operations of J Boag's operations, a year after the acquisition.

With SMC at the helm, James Boag premium was relaunched with new packaging while James Boag Premium Light was launched in Tasmania.

SMC hinted of further expansion plans in Australia as soon as J Boag was acquired.

The company said J Boag was but its "first step" in the Australian market.

What is more important than J Boag's market share is the opportunity SMC now has to expand its distribution in the Australian market.

The acquisition of J Boag also brought to seven the total number of SMC's offshore breweries in addition to one each in Vietnam, Indonesia and four in China.

But SMC wants to widen its presence in Australia not only in the beer industry but in the packaging business as well.

Australia is currently one of SMPP's strongest markets in the packaging business.

Aside from the glass plants, SMPP also operates crown plants in China (San Miguel Shunde Packaging Co. Ltd.) and Vietnam (San Miguel Phu Tho Packaging Co. Ltd.) as well as a plastic plant in Indonesia (PT San Miguel Sampoerna Packaging Industries Ltd.).

Confidence

Last year was very challenging for the company following the pullout of some multinational companies from local manufacturing as well as the advent of e-bidding which drove down profit margins.

The fact that Cojuangco, an ally of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, lived in Australia under self-exile for many years after the EDSA Revolution of 1986 is one of the reasons why SMC is so confident of going big into this market, analysts said.

Since he is no stranger to this market, Cojuangco's strategy is worth watching unfold.

After building up a $1-billion cash hoard and spending it on other major acquisitions - including softdrink bottler Cosmos Bottlings Corp., processed meat manufacturer Pure Foods Corp. and powdered juice maker Sugarland Foods Corp. as well as the buyback of Coca Cola Bottling Corp., the next step was to replenish its war chest for regional expansion.

Recently, SMC took in Kirin Brewery of Japan as a strategic partner and raised $540 million in fresh cash.

"With today's industries being shaped by two powerful forces namely globalization and consolidation, our partnership with a major Asian conglomerate enhances the prospects of a stronger San Miguel presence in the Asia-Pacific region," Cojuangco said.

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MOVEMENTS

MBC announces latest appointments

MANILA Broadcasting Co. (MBC), the largest radio network in the country and Asia, recently announced the appointments of Johnny "Ivan" Quiling and Willie Espinosa as programming director for Yes FM and HOT FM networks and programming director for Love Radio, respectively.

Having been with MBC for five years, Quiling started working for the network as a disc jockey for Love Radio Baguio in 1997. Prior to his appointment as programming director, he served as station manager for Love Radio Baguio for two years.

Espinosa joined MBC in 2000 as station manager for Love Radio Zamboanga. He has been in the broadcast industry for almost 10 years, starting as disc jockey then moving on to become station manager in other radio networks.

As programming directors, both Quiling and Espinosa are responsible for staying ahead of competition by creating accessible programming that can easily be enjoyed by listeners from all ages and social backgrounds.

ICTSI announces new appointments

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) recently announced management appointments with the hiring of Benjamin M. Gorospe III as its tax manager, and the promotion of Christian R. Gonzales as assistant manager for special projects of ICTSI Ltd., ICTSI's foreign projects subsidiary.

Gorospe brings to ICTSI five years of work experience as a tax lawyer and certified public accountant. Before joining ICTSI, he was with Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co. for five years as senior associate in the tax division.

He earned his Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of the Philippines in 1997. He took his Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree, major in Accounting at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Meanwhile, Gonzales, former Superintendent at the Manila International Container Terminal, was promoted to assistant manager for special projects of ICTSI Ltd.

Gonzales joined ICTSI in 1997 as management trainee. He was promoted to superintendent in 1999, and was initially assigned to the planning section of the operations center before moving to the development section of the operations department.

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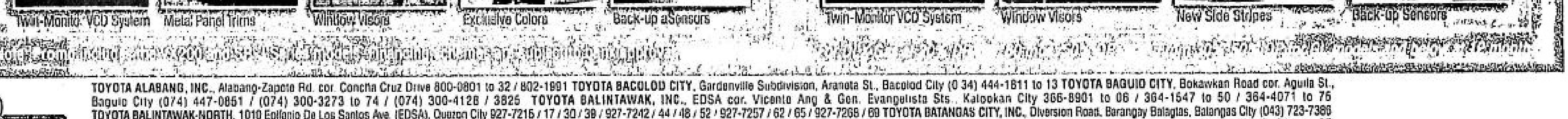

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Arts/Design

BORN to music, the conductor says he can't help but make music.

THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC'S LORIN MAAZEL

Man on the podium

By Grace Shangkuan Koo
Contributor

WHEN a man has conducted 150 different orchestras and has presented over 5,000 performances all over the world, what still motivates him? I asked this of Lorin Maazel, the music director of the New York Philharmonic in an exclusive interview at the Peninsula Hotel recently.

"When one is born to make music he can't help but make music. As I get older I have enjoyed music more, not less. And when one reaches a certain stage, all extraneous factors fall away. The extraneous things—as wanting to make a name, wanting to make a living, wanting to be successful—when these had

MAN/ p.D2

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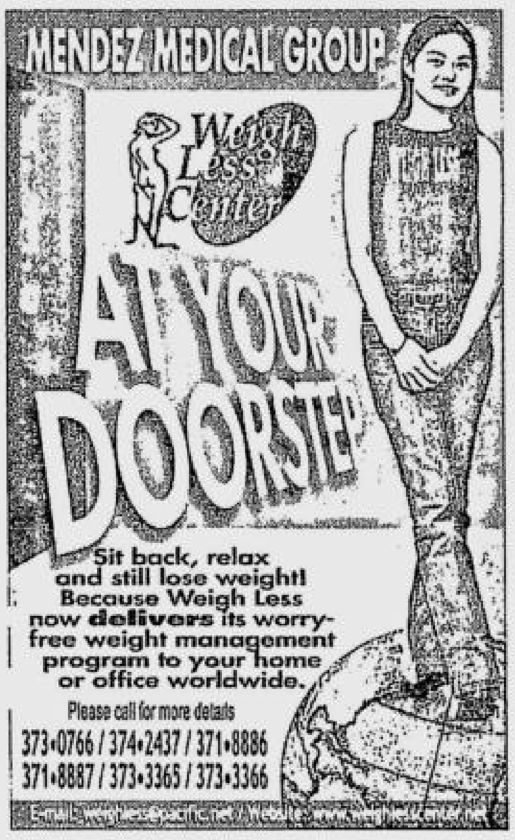

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Man on the podium

From page D1

fallen into place, the only thing that remains is what you had at the beginning—the music." Spontaneous yet perceptive, simple yet profound, his answers moved me.

Conductor at 12

Maazel took his first violin lessons at age 5 and conducting lessons at age 7. At age 11, he was invited by Toscanini to conduct the NBC Symphony. He conducted the New York Orchestra when he was only 12. But it was not music that he first chose to take up in college!

"At that age I had not experienced making music as a job. With four or five concerts in summer, I was able to lead a normal childhood. When it was time to decide for a career choice, I chose for myself what I thought would lead me to sort out where I would want to go in life. In the course of which I couldn't help but realize that my first love was music."

A good memory is important for musicians, but not necessarily a photographic memory that does not need much effort and intelligence. "The effort of learning a piece of music is to come to grips with the struggles of the composer who wrote the music. In that process, you learn a great deal about the music—you develop and interact with the notes—to the point when you can see the notes clearly in your mind like you see the furniture in your bedroom."

The college years were not without hardship. Maazel worked all day, had a string quartet, and gave violin recitals. He put himself through school and studied economics, literature, French and Russian from 8 p.m. until midnight, determined to get a university education. He expanded his knowledge of European languages and culture and at age 21, ambitious to study in Europe, won a Fulbright scholarship to study Baroque music. "That was where it all began."

New York Philharmonic

Sixty years after conducting the New York Orchestra in an outdoor concert, Maazel was invited to be the new music director of the New York Philharmonic, the oldest and wealthiest orchestra in the United States. In its 160 years of history, the roster of its music directors has included such musical legends as Gusav Mahler, Arturo Toscanini, Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta and, most recently, Kurt Masur. How does it feel to be among them in this position? Is there any burden or pressure? "It's not a burden, at all. I have healthy relationships with them. (I have known Zubin Mehta for 30 years and we would be together in a concert on Jan. 21.) This is a healthy situation. I'm extremely honored. It's a joyful challenge!"

Asked about his relationship with his orchestras, he described himself as "relating very well with his colleagues, empathizing with the musicians, and taking his profession very seriously." Dispelling the impression that he was stern, he related that as a young conductor leading musicians more senior than he was, he had to look firm and demanding, as is the human nature of young people wanting to look old. Now the situation has reversed. "I have not been ambitious about succeeding. I read a lot of philosophies and my father is very much into Buddhism. I grew up in a quiet, relaxed, *que sera sera* atmosphere." The maestro talked further about ethics, responsibilities, values and changes. "Everyone has a responsibility and one has to do what he can and hope that it will bring about a positive change."

Fit for music

Maestro Maazel speaks many languages—Italian, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and recently in Beijing, even announced the encore titles in Mandarin! Physically, he keeps himself fit by swimming, playing tennis and jogging (six miles for 35 minutes). The challenge of the profession forces him to be fit. "After doing music for three hours, I am happy to find whatever reserves I have." He and his wife, an actress, have two young children.

Maestro Maazel struck me as an engaging and warm person. He answered all the questions with much interest and elaborated on them. He looked straight into your eyes and did not gloss over your questions—be they silly or expected. He put no airs and demanded no restrictions. He shook hands firmly and laughed easily. Generous and accommodating, he even suggested to invite music students to attend his rehearsals and advanced students to take master's classes with his orchestra members in their next trip. He is one cool maestro, not intimidating nor celebrity-conscious.

Sold out

Weeks before the concert, sponsored by Citigroup, the tickets had been sold out. The evening was resplendent—a display of dazzling diamonds and shimmering shawls, music literati mixing with philistines. (The latter gave away their identity in premature applauses between movements, ruining the silence for transitions). To say the concert was good would be an understatement. On Oct. 19, the 13,610th concert of the New York Philharmonic, the music was magnificent and moving—it could make one cry!

The program started with the delightfully naughty Mussorgsky's "Night on a Bald Mountain." The ferocious accuracy of the man on the podium was observed in every movement of the baton. Like a magic wand, it expressed the 3/2 of the second movement of Rachmaninoff (Piano Concerto # 2) like cuts in a diamond. Lang Lang, the 20-year-old piano soloist, sang with his fingers and danced with his body—contorting to a cocoon then releasing to a butterfly. Crescendos and decrescendos of the pianist and orchestra were so measured, controlled and synchronized, as one built-in volume control. The Tchaikovsky's Symphony # 5 was a showcase of the dynamic prowess and range of the orchestra. The timbres and rhythm, lines and layers transport the listeners to a realm beyond.

The maestro was relaxed, fully in control and enjoying himself. At 72, he conducted all three pieces without a score. Three encores responded to the standing ovations—a Glinka overture and two Brahm's Hungarian dances. The man on the podium, in his element, was having fun, frolicking through the pieces as he was a few hundred times before.

Hours after the concert, the Russian music still haunted me, even to my dream. And when I woke up the next morning, I was still humming the languid andante cantabile—as the sound of the horn possesses you again. That is music for me—music that makes you "drunk and crazy"!

E-mail the author at grace@koo.org

THE MAESTRO and his wife at the Peninsula Manila

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Maazel, Lang Lang collaboration awes Manila

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

LORIN Maazel, music director of the New York Philharmonic, and 20-year-old Lang Lang, the featured piano soloist, awed Manila's audience during their recent performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater.

The duo eloquently delineated roles in a perfect collaboration rarely witnessed in Manila's concert stage. The wisdom of a seasoned conductor and the expressiveness of a young virtuoso blended into a dynamic fusion to ensure absolute listening pleasure. Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18, was never heard the way the tandem played it.

Lang Lang's approach was unique, "deeply on a personal level," as a line in his profile put it. His approach was not conventional. Instead of the familiar romantic treatment bordering on vulgarity, his was sublime, supremely tempered, bringing out the sentiment of the concerto in a most refined manner. He restrained sheer sentimentality but, instead, forged an intelligent approach with the conductor to give full rein to exquisite expressiveness, a feat that was most stunning for someone so young.

Though in need of more muscle to express the Slavic temperament to the full, Lang Lang's tone was elegant and lush, indeed thoroughly relaxed to invite full listening.

Needless to say, Lang Lang and conductor Maazel have obviously achieved full rapport, both avoiding unwanted supremacy by either the piano or the orchestra. What a perfect balance!

THE PIANO prodigy's approach is deeply personal.

There was oneness of everything from the dynamics to phrasing to rhythmic flow. Except for the too loud downbeat strokes of the basses in the second movement, where the piano and the orchestra etched a most tender dialogue, the dynamics were simply fantastic. From the opening chords of the concerto to the rousing march of the final movement, everything pointed to this state of harmony.

> Lang Lang and conductor Maazel have obviously achieved full rapport

Tin Pan Alley favorite

When the familiar theme was first sounded, Lang Lang was restrained, not wanting to sound anticlimactic and reserving all his energy to showcase the orchestra to the full as it played with a broad sweep the theme Tin Pan Alley had popularized as "Full Moon and Empty Arms."

Similarly, when Lang Lang performed his melodic lines, the orchestra provided excellent assistance without drowning out the piano. Despite a well-conceptualized plan, there was no suggestion that the performance was studied or predictable, as it flowed spontaneously.

Maazel, conducting from memory, showed what collaborative effort is all about. He stood facing the orchestra, and just waited for Lang Lang to start. He would merely throw a quick look, never issuing a command to the pianist with a gesture or a nod. The tandem knew how to execute the piece well.

Manila's music lovers, and even local musicians, learned one important thing about warming up. The audience was greeted with the unfamiliar sight of musicians warming up on stage. This is more correct than warming up backstage because it gives musicians a feel of the stage where the performance will take place.

The programming followed the traditional way still widely practiced abroad. The all-Russian program started with Rimsky-Korsakov's arrangement of Mussorgsky's irreverent tone poem, "Night on Bald Mountain."

Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op.64, provided symphonic delight, where the collective as well as the individual might of the musicians, especially the wind section, solidly towered. The horn must be singled out for the elegant solo passage rendered in the second movement.

Maazel opted for a slightly brisk tempo and avoided trite sentimentality. He disclosed the vividly rich colors of Tchaikovsky's orchestral palette, rhythmic vitality, broad melodic contours and the like. One followed the delineation of the work's symphonic idea with much enthusiasm as it was tossed from one instrument or group of instruments to the other. In the encore piece, Glinka's "Russlan and Ludmilla," Maazel's tempo was even faster, to the delight of the audience. One was simply mesmerized with the virtuoso caliber of the New York Philharmonic.

Electrified, Manila's music lovers had a taste of what a truly world-class performance is.

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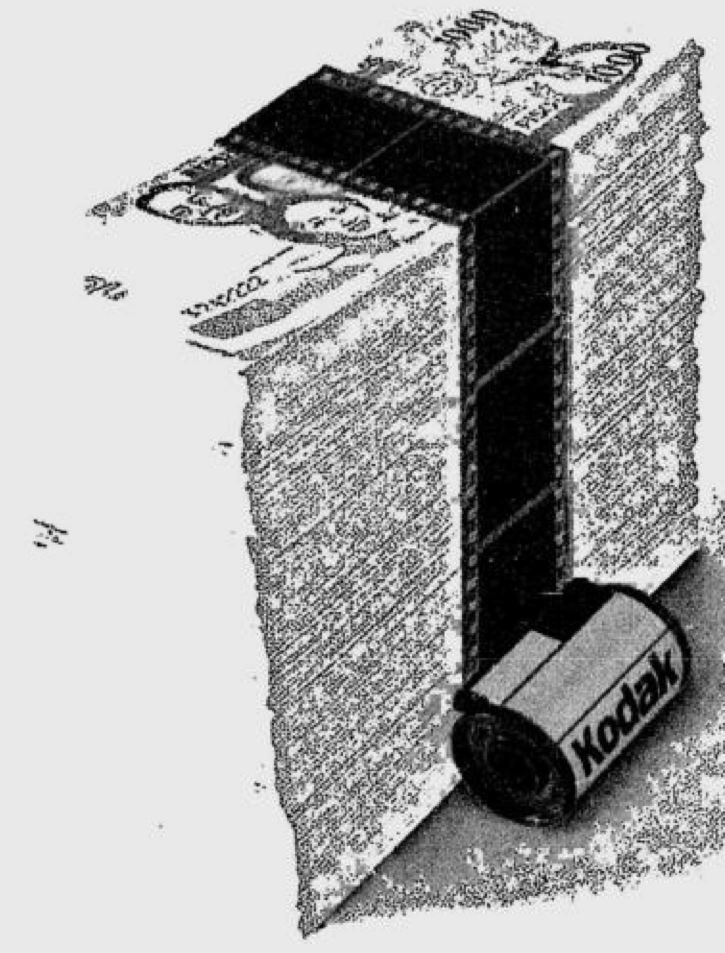

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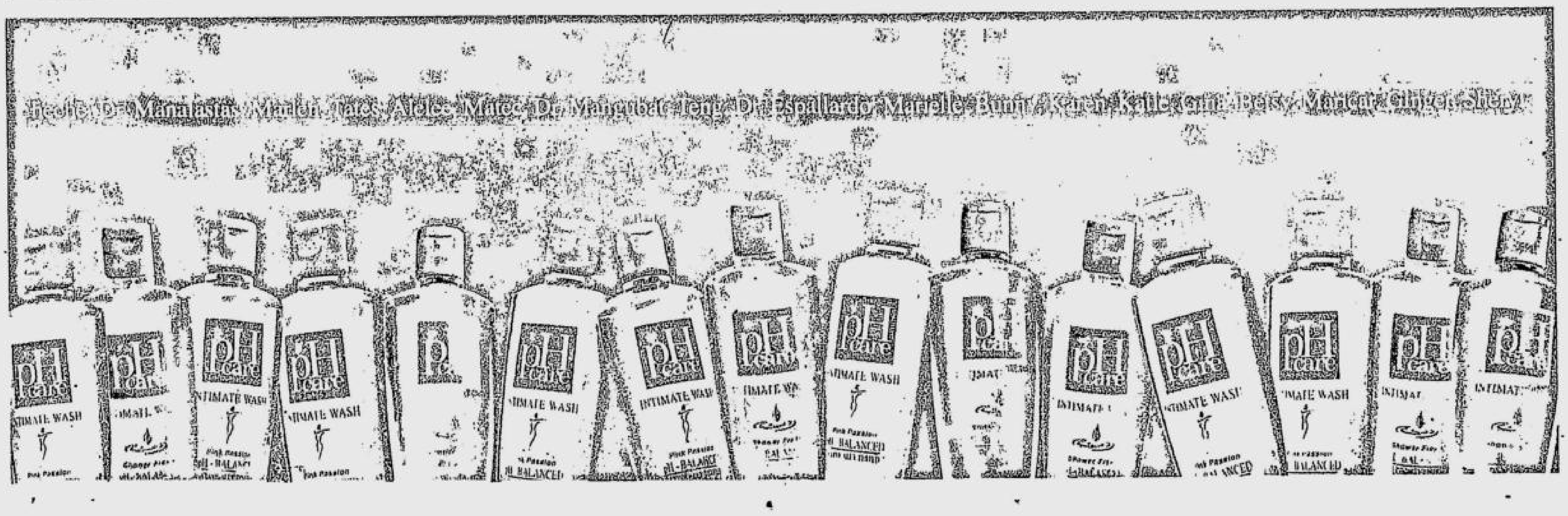


Intramuros, Baguio, Sagada—good-bye to all that

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

We can only speak of our once-beautiful cities in the past tense

"WE speak of Manila in the past tense," author and book publisher Alfredo Roces once told me. Although Roces is a former Manileño who, to his credit, has not severed his ties with the city of his birth, I could only agree with his observation. So let us take a good look at Manila and other Philippine cities in the past tense.

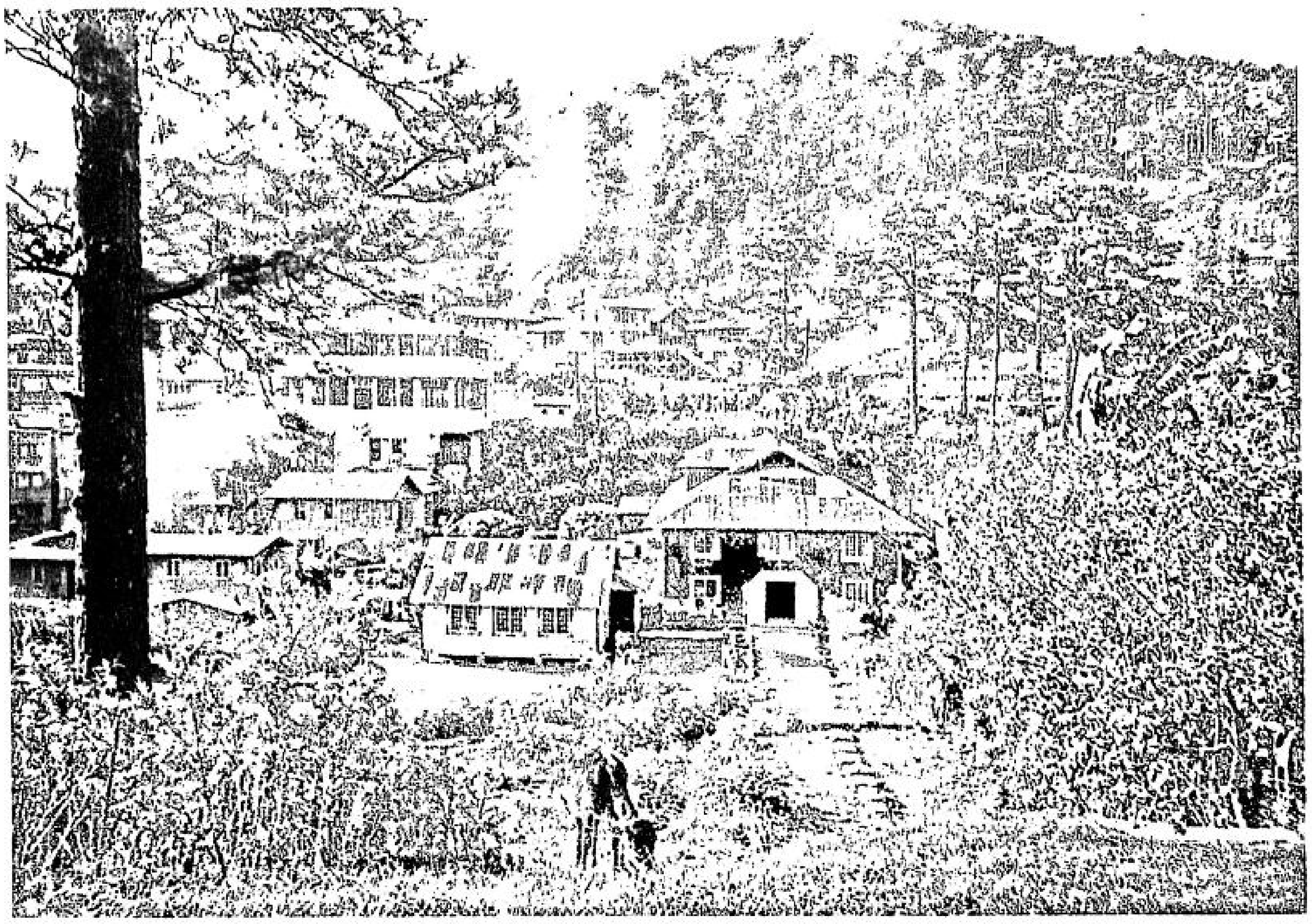
Manila was already established as a center of power before the Spanish took it over. It continued as a center of power during the Spanish colonial era. The Americans later planned the expansion of Manila extramuros early in the 20th century following the City Beautiful tradition of long tree-lined boulevards, parks and monumental buildings. Manila was to look like Paris. The planner was the American international architectural icon, Daniel Burnham.

In post-Burnham days, Manila was the former nerve center of the country, the place of origin for all government and economic impact affecting life in the entire archipelago.

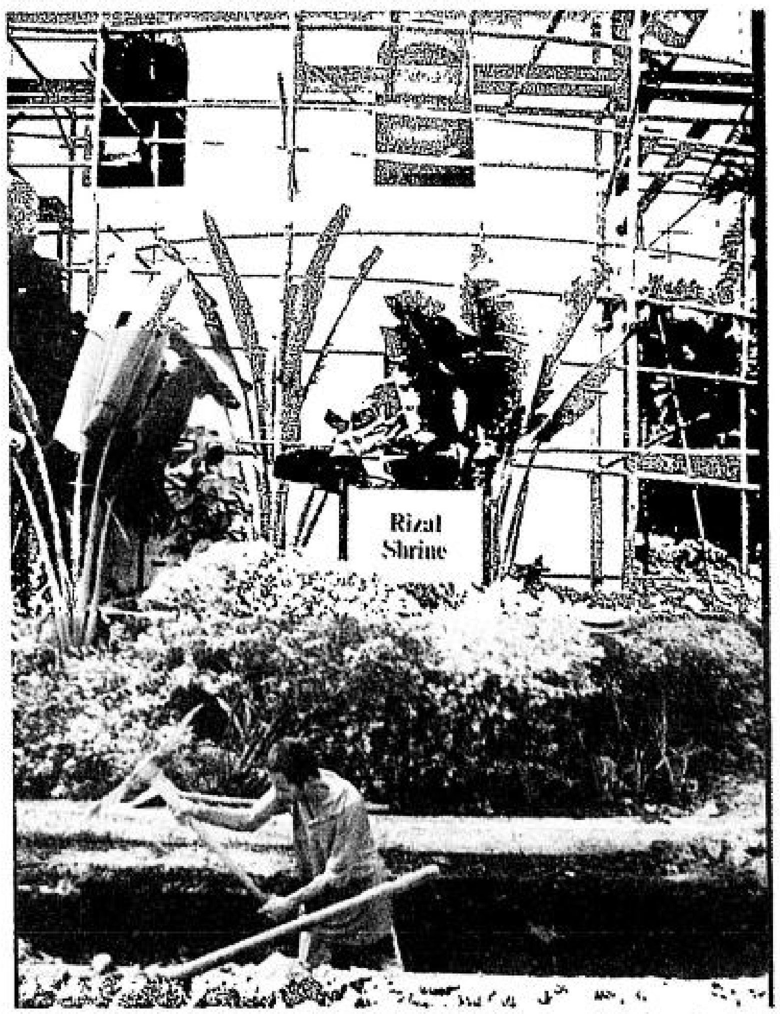
Talk about Manila in the present tense? What can we say?

Baguio, another Burnham-planned city in the pine-covered Benguet mountains, was the former summer capital of the Philippines. It was designed as a colonial Hill Station where the cool mountain air was the main attraction. Its winding roads and structures done in an architecture style all of its own made the place look very different from lowland cities.

Baguio had such strong character then. Now the pines are gone. Pollution from vehicles overpowers the once fresh mountain air. Nondescript concrete architecture has replaced the wooden houses. It is difficult to speak of Baguio in the present tense today.



SAGADA has become the showcase of tasteless ad-hoc architecture.



INTRAMUROS is perhaps the only heritage area that has been preserved well in Manila. But preserving its legacy has been a constant struggle.

Climbing the Cordilleras from Baguio, we conjure an image of high-altitude Banaue as a calm settlement surrounded by rice terraces. That the terraces surround the town is still true. But the image ends there. There is nothing calm about Banaue. Its ambience is that of a frontier town in a western movie. The architecture looks ad hoc and temporary. I have never seen so much GI sheets in one place. Houses are built completely of tin, walls and roofs; so it rains with such a clatter, and it rains often. Those houses must be ovens during the short highland summer.

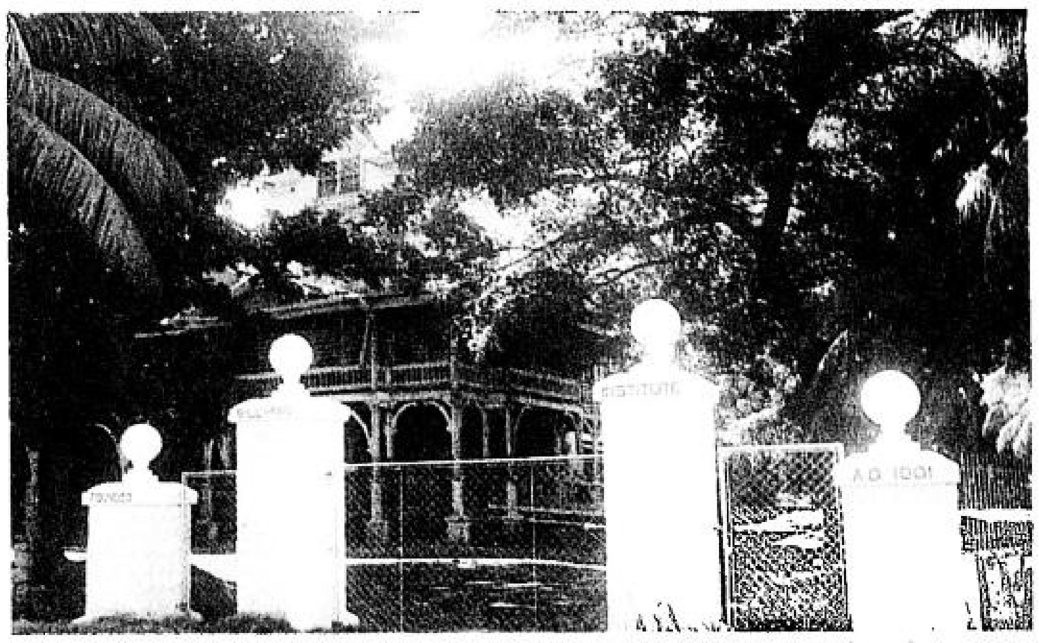
Very little

Very little about the looks of present Banaue tells me that I am in one of the centers of the rich northern Cordillera civilization that has produced the Hudhud, a traditional chant honored as one of the Ten Most Valuable Living Cultural Heritage of the World by Unesco, and also the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, a Unesco World Heritage site. Banaue is another of those past-tense towns.

The only way to speak of other Philippine cities today is sadly in the past tense. In their present overcrowded, polluted state, the quality of life our cities offer is far from what their residents deserve. Yet the locals are for the most part passive. They make no demands on authorities to improve the surroundings that they live in.

Improvement is not unattainable. Urban revitalization is the answer.

Urban revitalization covers a wide range of development concepts, approaches and strategies, from heritage conservation (a discipline that includes historical and cultural preservation restoration and rehabilitation of neighborhoods) to renewal of the inner city core or of blighted areas. It includes, if necessary, wholesale urban redevelopment programs.



SILLIMAN Hall. An endangered heritage site with the planned reclamation of Dumaguete

However, urban revitalization has also been an overused and misunderstood concept.

Squatters fear urban revitalization because they think that they will be relocated far out of the city center that it will make getting to work extremely difficult. In a market-driven real estate economy, private property owners fear revitalization because they think strictly implemented zoning regulations could prevent them from maximizing profits from land development. They also fear that revitalization may shift commercial focus away from their property holdings. Government authorities view revitalization as a mixed bag of causes and effects that could affect their effectiveness and credibility.

Urban revitalization cannot be achieved successfully without stakeholder agreement. It means that whoever is affected by it should be given the opportunity to air his views and participate in the process to come up with solutions to the problem.

Dumaguete

A recent case was the proposed reclamation of a large area fronting the Dumaguete shoreline. Rizal Boulevard along the Dumaguete shoreline is a cultural landscape of national value. At one end of the boulevard is picturesque Silliman Hall, said to be the first building constructed in the islands during the American era and the symbol of Silliman University.

The reclamation would have separated the boulevard and Silliman Hall from their traditional access to the sea. Not only that, Silliman scientists were concerned with the damage the project would do to the ecology.

What happened in Dumaguete was a very rare case in the Philippines in which consultation was held among all the stakeholders—city officials, Philippine Ports Authority and Silliman University—regarding the scope and the design of the port development project. The consultation is not yet completed, but its results are guaranteed to satisfy the priorities of all concerned. When the decision is reached, it should be a landmark in both urban revitalization and heritage preservation.

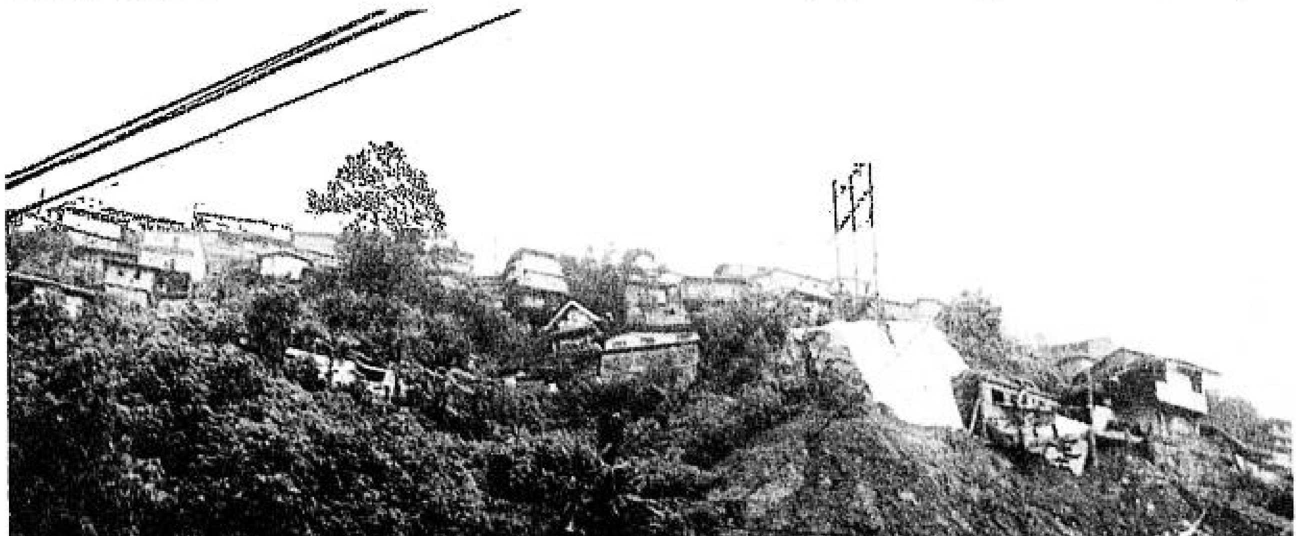
The Dumaguete example shows that win-win solutions can only happen when there is a meeting of minds among all those affected by the project. However, why are local residents in most Philippine locations typically passive about urban revitalization programs that could either drastically affect the way they live or the environment around them?

Effective revitalization programs need community agreement, as well as public-private partnership. In Intramuros, probably the only heritage zone in the Philippines with a very good legal framework that spells out design measures to be followed in order to preserve its patrimony, there is a lot of disagreements over the Intramuros Code. Many of the private landowners have not rebuilt the structures on their properties because they feel the four-story height requirement prohibits maximization of their real estate profits. Therefore, most of Intramuros remains empty. On the other hand, the government has not responded with incentives to encourage private landowners to build. So today Intramuros remains at a standstill.

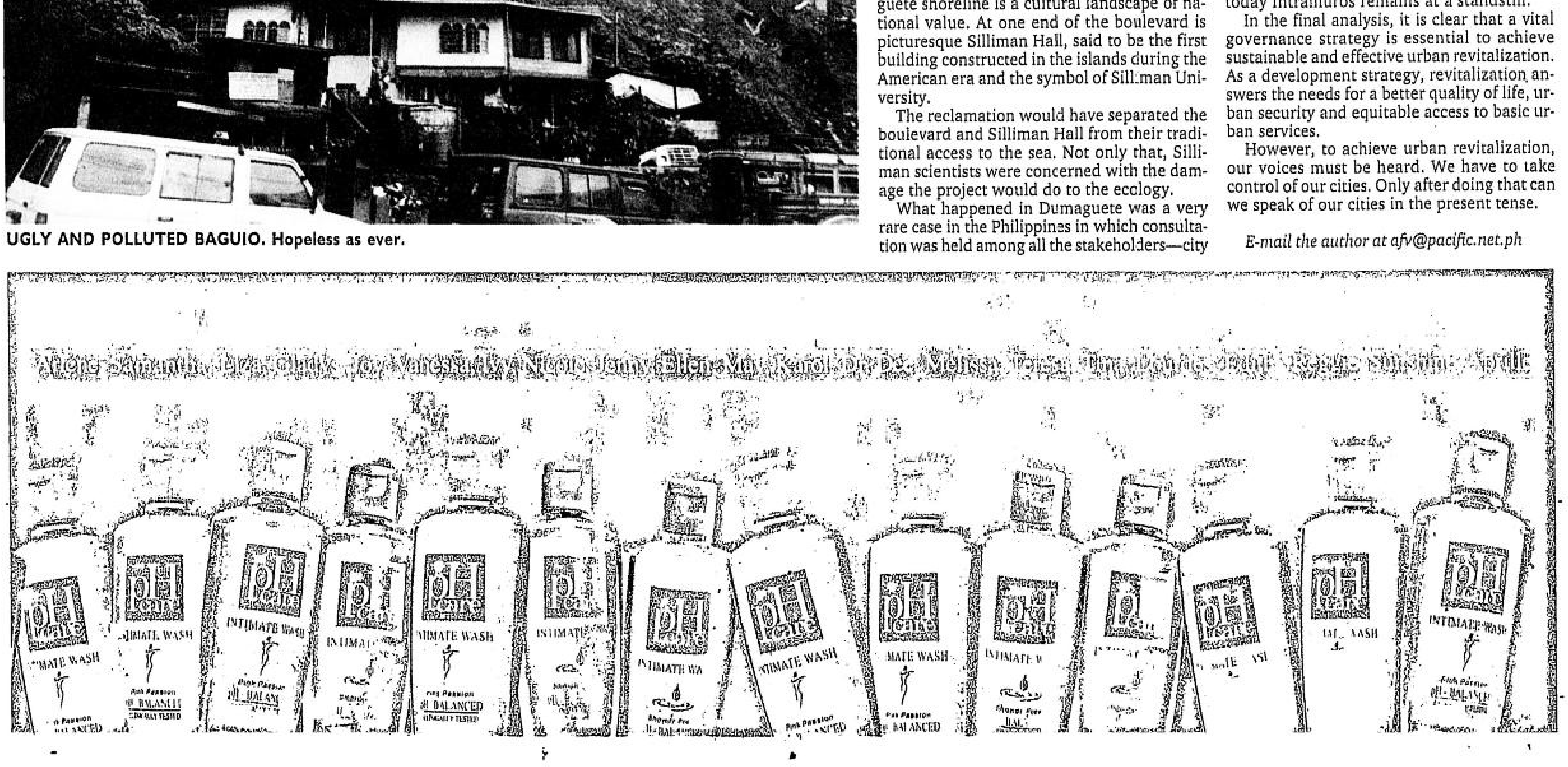
In the final analysis, it is clear that a vital governance strategy is essential to achieve sustainable and effective urban revitalization. As a development strategy, revitalization answers the needs for a better quality of life, urban security and equitable access to basic urban services.

However, to achieve urban revitalization, our voices must be heard. We have to take control of our cities. Only after doing that can we speak of our cities in the present tense.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph



UGLY AND POLLUTED BAGUIO. Hopeless as ever.



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Iligan folk dance group wins big in France and Monaco

From page D8

tion after its performance that edged out other cultural troupes from Paraguay, the Ivory Coast, Mexico, Surinam, Chechnya and five other countries.

Ipag's prize-winning repertoire opened with the a capella singing of National Artist Lucio San Pedro's "Ugoy ng Duyan"; "Dahil sa Iyo" and, its signature version of the national anthem. Capping the performance was the ecological number "Bird and Fish," based on a Maranao folktale that left audiences in tears. Obviously, the audiences comprehended fully the message: to paraphrase Henrik Ibsen's "The Wild Duck," nature does not forget when man violates her.

The Ipag celebrated its 25th anniversary away from home. Its performers danced half-nude for the piece titled, "Earth, Wind and Fire"; festival judges gave them a standing ovation. On top of that, the group had a successful performance for Monaco's royalty at the Hotel de Paris' Grand Ballroom facilitated by Dr. Stephen Zuellig, Monaco's honorary consul to the Philippines.

According to Fernandez, the 85-year-old "erudite" Zuellig personally supervised the food and giveaways for an elite, by-invitation-only audience led by Monaco's Prince Albert and the Minister of State Patrick Leclercq; Col. Serge Lamblin, Chambellan du Prince Souverain; and the diplomatic corps.

Monaco's Prince

As soon as Prince Albert ("Monaco's Serene Excellency") arrived for the performance at the baroque Hotel de Paris across Monaco's famous casino, Zuellig rose to introduce the Ipag, and the dinner-show began "without fuss and without speeches," Fernandez said.

Aside from Fernandez, Ipag's performers and musicians included Melvin Pascubillo, Reynan Revillas, Arlem Abanes, Dexter Jumalon, Julius Hechanova, Nolly Ceballos, Ronald Allan Salazar, Eleanor Lila, Leilani Monterola, Lilybeth Maraon, Wenna Balaido, Lara Fatima Maglinao and Jenalyn Morales. If the dancers wowed audiences, it was Morales' singing voice by itself that never failed to get a standing ovation.

Fernandez said Europeans had more or less a positive image of the Philippines. They correctly thought that the Philippines is located somewhere in the Pacific, that it is a former colony of Spain and it is a country with beautiful beaches that offers excellent beer at a low price.

Most significantly, the Philippines' woes, including the notoriety of the Abu Sayyaf, were not mentioned in the four countries and over 20 cities where the Ipag performed. Every performance saw the Philippine flag displayed prominently in the streets, churches and buildings.

Diplomatic faux pas

Few Filipinos were around to witness the performances, so when the red side of the Philippine flag was raised at the festival venue in Port Sur Saone, Ipag members rushed to correct this. Promptly, the French press took note of the incident, and called for greater care on the part of the hosts.

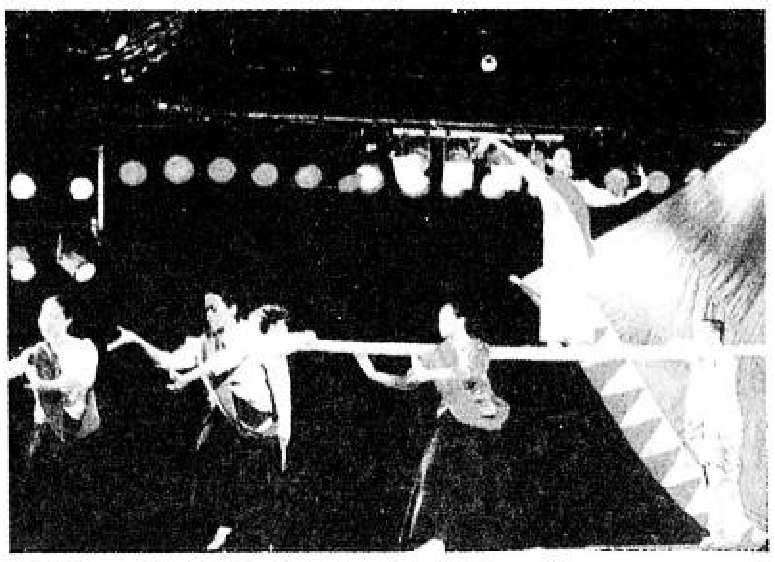
The Ipag became the darling of the press wherever they went primarily because it had the smallest performing group, with 11 dancers and three musicians in colorful costumes against 30-35 members from other countries.

The Europeans likewise raved at the olive skins and youthful appearance of the female performers who were mistaken for high school kids.

Most of those who came showed their deep interest and appreciation of Philippine culture by asking questions about the group's props, costumes and repertoire. Many more waved their Euro dollars in the air, clamoring to buy CDs of Ipag performances, which, unfortunately, Ipag didn't have.

Summing up the triumphant tour, Fernandez said, "Europeans have a sense of past and love for culture. They always look for intelligent entertainment and I believe, Ipag satisfied that."

IPAG displays its trophies


IPAG'S acrobatic *pangalay* wows European audience.

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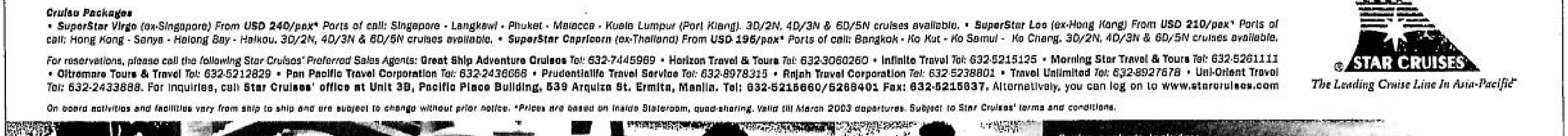
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Tense evening, wonderful music

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Betoy Johnson

UNDAUNTED by the bomb threats which wracked Manila the other weekend, the city's movers and shakers filled the Cultural Center of the Philippines on a balmy Saturday evening to witness and listen to the New York Philharmonic Orchestra (NYPO) and young Chinese piano sensation Lang-Lang play music that Manila would remember for a long time.

Security was extremely tight that evening, but the people who filed into the CCP did not mind. "Better safe than sorry," many of them echoed.

Playing to a full house and sitting cool and unperturbed onstage, the members of the NYPO were reportedly shaken by reports of a bomb that had blown up a bus in Balintawak the night before.

This was not surprising since these talented men and women had all come from a city where only a little over a year ago terrorism had their lives turned upside down.

But, like the resilient New Yorkers that they were, they went on and played beautiful music with such great passion for a truly warm and appreciative audience. They ended up giving three encores, and conductor Lorin Maazel telling the crowd, "You are truly wonderful."

DIANA Jean Lopez and Ping Valencia

IRMA Potenciano, Dennis Marasigan and Mariter Macapagal

MR. and Ms Napoleon Abueva

MR. and Ms Conrado de Quiros with PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

GERMAN Ambassador Herbert Jess and Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

BEHN Cervantes and Tessie Luz

NY Philharmonic gives Manila different kind of explosion

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines was awash with first-rate music and musicians last weekend, although the occasion was marred by the bombing of a bus that killed two commuters and reports of grenades being found in parts of Makati.

It was a glorious weekend for those who managed to watch Maestro Lorin Maazel lead the New York Philharmonic Orchestra (NYOP) in a peerless reading of Debussy's "La Mer" and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2.

A source close to the concert chair said the orchestra members wanted to leave Manila immediately, but there was no way to cancel the performance. Tickets were sold out (well, nearly), so you could imagine the havoc of reimbursing hundreds of ticket buyers, not to mention hastily rebooking for an earlier flight out of Manila the touring musicians.

So on the night 20-year-old Lang Lang debuted in Manila, Metro Manila seemed to be reenacting scenes from the film "Counterpoint," which featured an imaginary concert as musicians prepared to escape from terrorists. You can imagine how jittery members of the NYPO were as they read stories from Bali to Zamboanga and Metro Manila.

Like NY opening

But all apprehensions were set aside on the evening Citibank presented the NYPO to its clients and sponsors. The scene seemed no different from a New York opening night. The well-dressed isolated the casually attired, and no one applauded in between sections of the Sibelius symphony and Debussy's "La Mer."

THE MAESTRO

THE YOUNG piano sensation

Conductor Lorin Maazel and pianist Lang Lang softened the effect of a gory weekend with their glorious music

The piece de resistance for me on the first night was "La Mer." The Debussy opus about the sea has overtones of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Sa Pusod ng Dagat" and "Muro-Ami." Excellently played, the orchestral suite left the audience in complete awe of the orchestra and conductor. With the Sibelius finale, it was as though one was seized by the infinite power of music.

On the second evening, one heard a well-etched "Night on Bald Mountain" by Mussorgsky and an overpowering Symphony No.5 by Tchaikovsky. Maazel looked like he was a mere conduit to great music.

In Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, all eyes were on the soloist, Lang Lang, who, like Cecile Licad, was a star pupil of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia.

Youthful insight

The first movement confirmed the pianist's technical edge, but in the second movement, he proved he was no ordinary winner of the Junior Tchaikovsky Competition. In this slow part, Lang Lang revealed a young artist in the making. For the most part, he gave listeners a glimpse of distilled eternity.

Lang Lang might have missed the virile Rachmaninoff tones but, on the whole, the omission was irrelevant. He projected his own youthful insight of the concerto and his musicality was impeccable.

Lang Lang admitted he did not touch Rach 2 until he became comfortable with Rach 3.

"It is so funny because most pianists do a lot of Rach 2 before touching Rach 3," he told the INQUIRER. "As early as age 13, I was already playing a lot of Tchaikovsky's First and Rach 3. Then when I debuted with the New York Philharmonic, I thought it was time to descend in my repertoire-building plan and play Rach 2."

Lang Lang considered Rachmaninoff's works radically deep, if difficult and complicated. "Rach 2 is difficult emotionally but it is easier to understand. Rach 3 reminds me more of the dark side of life, and, in this regard, Rach 2 is more beautiful."

While he won in most piano competitions, Lang Lang made it clear he didn't believe it was a prerequisite for becoming an artist.

"I stopped joining competitions because I know that music is not about competing with fellow artists. Making music is not like winning scores in a basketball game. I'd rather compete with myself. Every day, I aim to be better. I don't want to end up [as] another famous pianist... There are many of them now. I also want to be a great artist someday, and I want to aim for that without facing different sets of piano jury."

Here and there

The highlight of young cellist Victor Michael Coo's tour of England, Scotland and South Africa as soloist in the Elgar Concerto, was playing in St. Martin in the Fields (in London) and getting to play the Rococo Variations.

The trip to Zimbabwe, where Coo was part of The New England Youth Ensemble, was also significant because he was part of the orchestra led by composer and choral master John Rutter in the premier of his latest work, "Feel the Spirit." The Zimbabwe performance was a fund-raising concert for the benefit of orphans with AIDS.

Coo, a graduate of the Philippine High School for the Arts, was a winner of the cello concerto competition in Florida. He is now working on his Dvorak concerto with his new teacher, Evelyn Elsing, in Baltimore.

GERMAN Ambassador Herbert and Mme. Micheline Jess

SEATED, from left, Carolyn Dimond, Ingrid Santamaria, Valentina Khmelnitski, Ambassador Navrekha Sharma; standing, Minister Carlos de Carvalho, Ambassador Paul Dimond, Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitski, Prof. Reynaldo Reyes, Ambassador Raimo Antolla, Conrado Escudero, Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Ambassador Joao da Silva and Ambassador Claudio do Couta Lyra

German Unification Day unifies Manila society

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE LADIES glittered, buffet tables groaned and the beer flowed like, well, the Rhine, at German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess'** fete in celebration of the German Unification. Would you believe there were more than 600 guests—among them Papal Nuncio **Antonio Franco**, Speaker **Joe de Venecia**, Foreign Undersecretary **F. Ebdalin**, **Carlyn Manning**, painter **Manny Baldemor**, Consul **Miguel** and **Alice Guerrero**, **Tina Carlos**, Honorary Consuls **Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**, chic **Olga Martel**, Finland's Ambassador **Raimo** and Mme. **Piuu Anttola**, Chinese Ambassador **Wang Chunggui**, Netherlands Ambassador **Theo** and Mme. **Kessara Arnold**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and Mme. **Clara Colesanti**, irrepressible **Johnny Litton**, businessman **Edgar Krone**, Justice **Artemio Panganiban** and PDI chair **Marixi Prieto**—milling around the garden and the three buffet tables prepared by the Inter-Con with sausages and kraut.

Germany is not only involved in the Philippines in development and self-help projects such as fisheries, but has also fully equipped the UP Anthropology/Archaeology Department with its own lab complete with computers and high-powered microscopes that have proven of great help to both budding scientists and archaeologists of the National Museum.

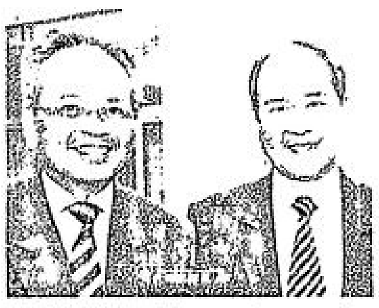
* * *

Don **Ado** (as in **Escudero**, like you didn't know) tendered a *despedida* for Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitsky** and his gracious wife **Valentina** at his ancestral home in Tiaong, where guests braved rains, wind and floods to attend. The party was complete with carabao carts ferrying the guests to the garden pavilion for dinner, where popular concert pianist **Ingrid Santamaria** and Prof. **Reynaldo Reyes** performed a two-piano rendition of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2.

* * *

The Ladies Who Lunch had a get together at Le Soufflé on the occasion of **Meldy Cojuangco**'s birthday. The popular Meldy, who continues to support cultural (like the New York Symphony) and religious activities (like the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion's yearly procession), remains a true and faithful member of the FCCP—even if its new name is a mouthful.

PDI chair Marixi Prieto and House Speaker Jose de Venecia



JUSTICE Art Panganiban and Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

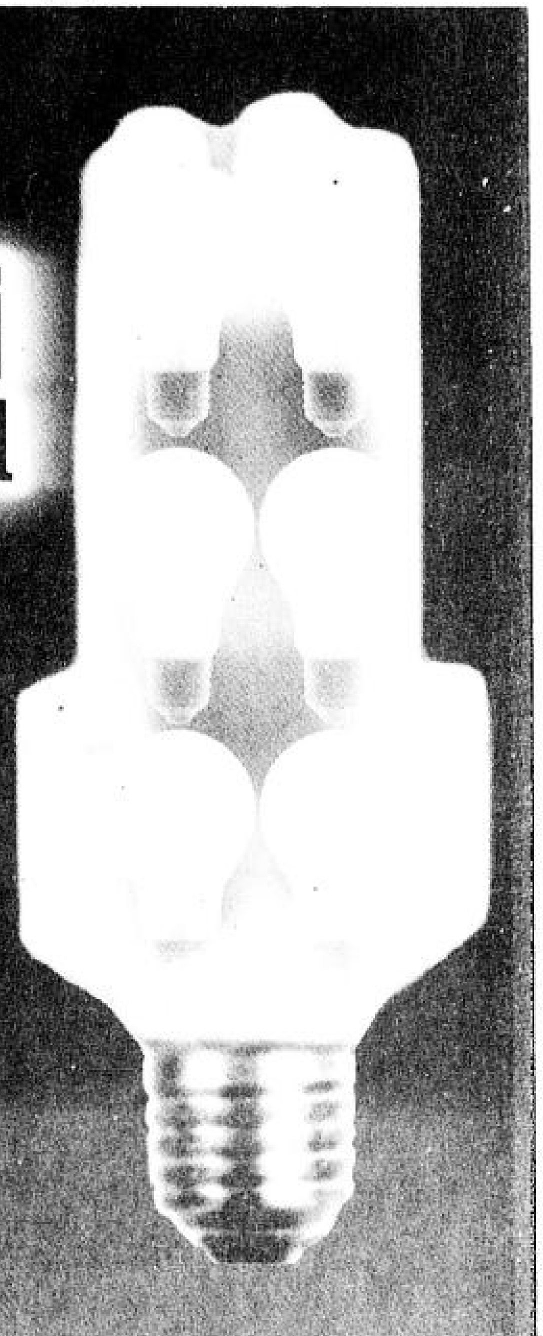
CONDUCTOR Ruggero Barbieri and Baby Orosa

* * *

From far-off Monaco (the photo came by snail mail) comes the news that the Integrated Performing Arts Guild (Ipag) from the Iligan Institute of Technology/Mindanao State University performed unique folkloric dances from the South in Monaco during our National Day celebration on July 5. Hosted by Philippine Consul General in Monaco, Dr. **Stephen Zuellig**, at the Salle Empire of the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo, HSH **Prince Albert** of Monaco attended together with Philippine Ambassador to France **Hector Villaroel**.

OLGA Martel, Peruvian Ambassador Jorge Chavez and Consul Evie Costa

AMBASSADOR Hector Villaroel, Prince Albert of Monaco and Dr. Stephen Zuellig with the members of the Integrated Performing Arts Guild



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IPAG dancing the *pinintok* in France.

Iligan folk dance group wins big in France and Monaco

It was the Filipino group's lack of gloss that wowed the Europeans

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Contributor

FOR SHEER verve, diversity and color, and faithfulness to folkloric traditions, Iligan's premier performing arts group got to perform for Monaco's royalty and took the grand prize for music and other prizes for sports activities in the recently held 13th International Folklore Festival in Port Sur Saone, France. The Integrated Performing Arts Guild (Ipag) also received a gold medal as one of only 11 of the world's cultural groups selected to join this year's festival.

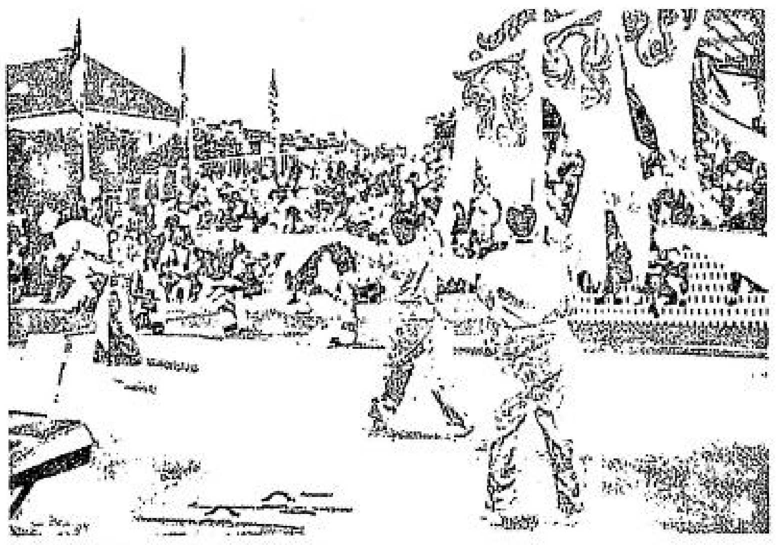
The 25-year-old Ipag, the resident theater company of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), wowed and stunned European audiences in its three-month tour of Monaco, France, Belgium and Spain.

DANCER executes the *salindagaw*.

Standing ovation

After showing this writer copies of the reviews on Ipag's performances published in leading newspapers in Monaco, Paris and Madrid, Ipag executive director Steven Patrick Fernandez unabashedly recalled how the judges at the folkloric festival in France gave Ipag a standing ova-

ILIGAN/ p.D5



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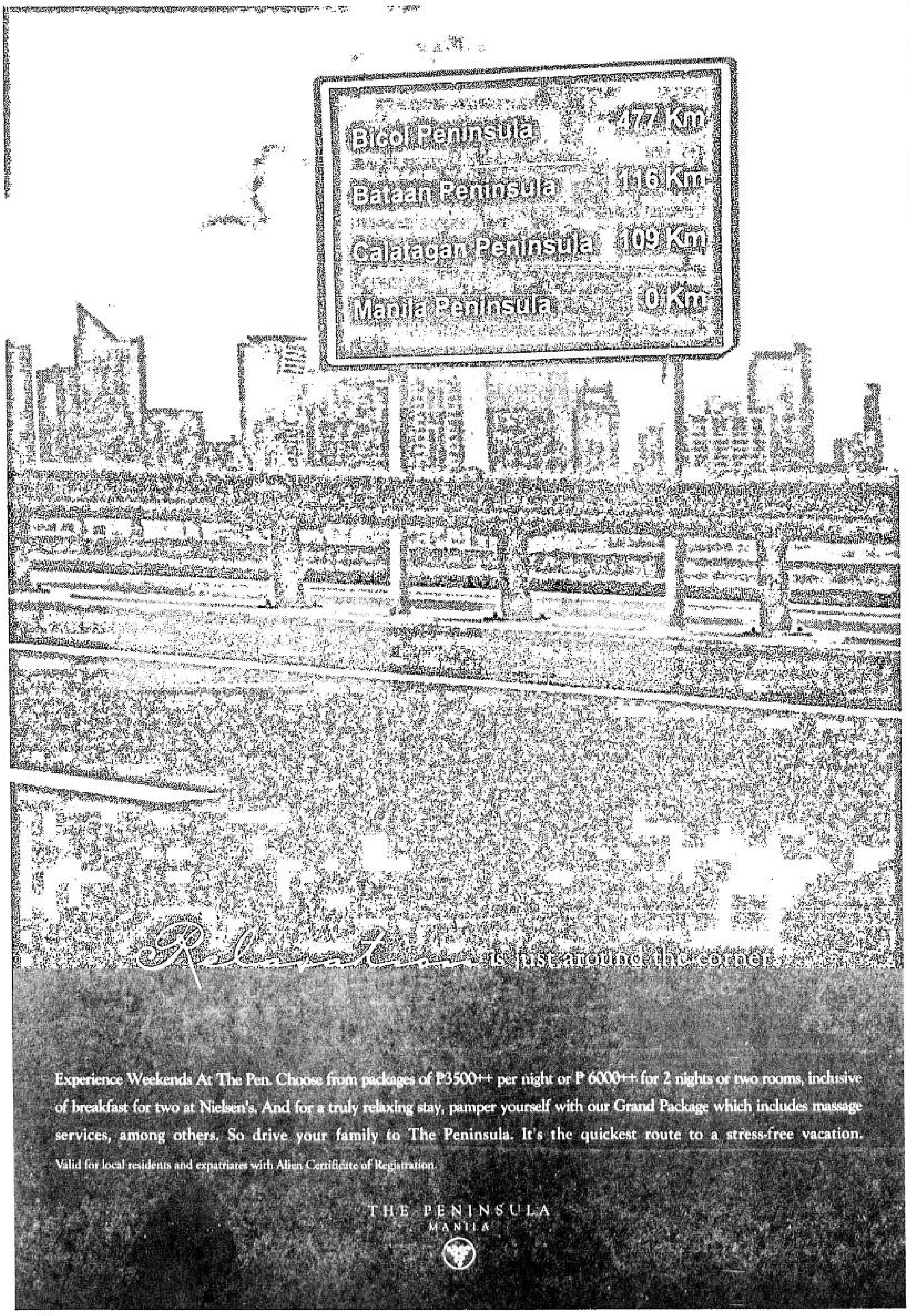

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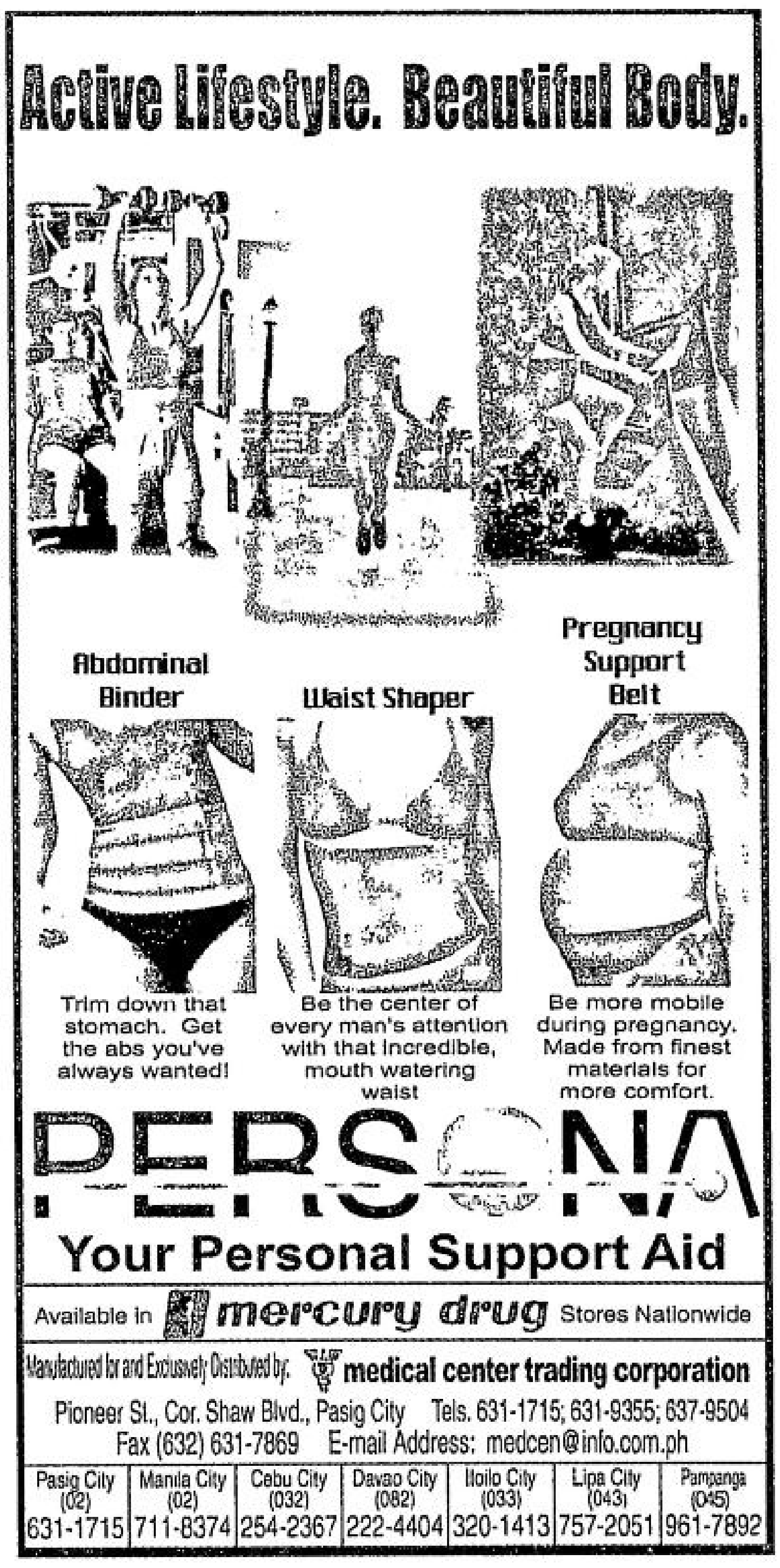

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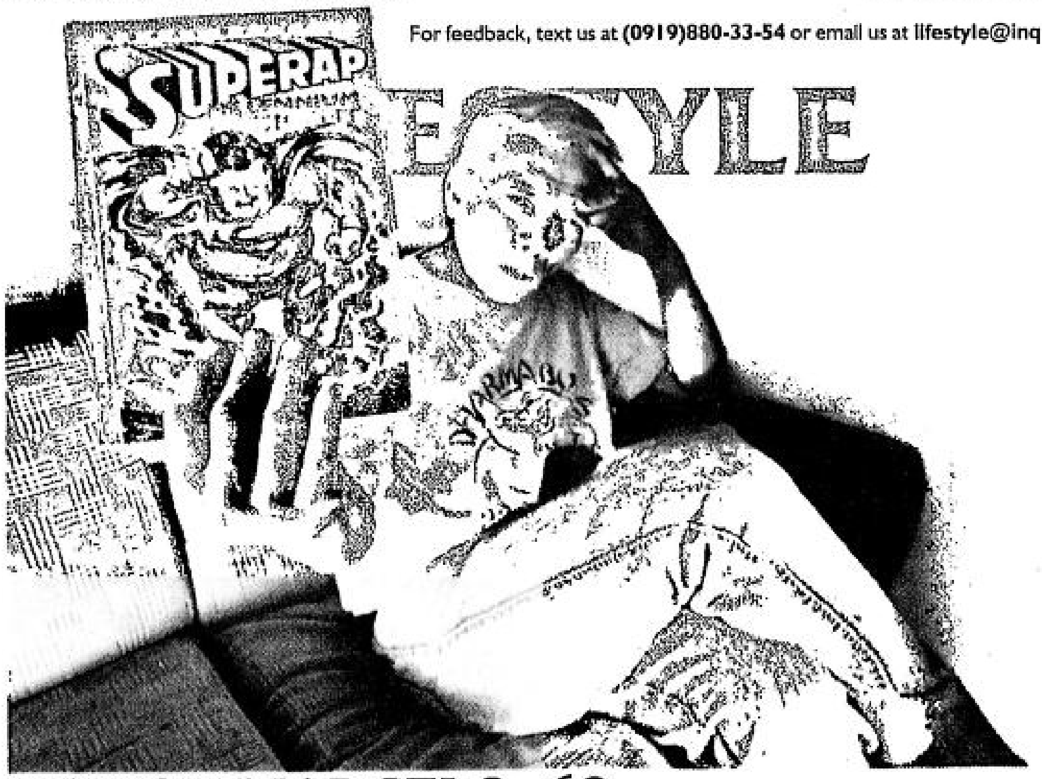

NONOY MARCELO, 63

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STORY ON PAGE E5

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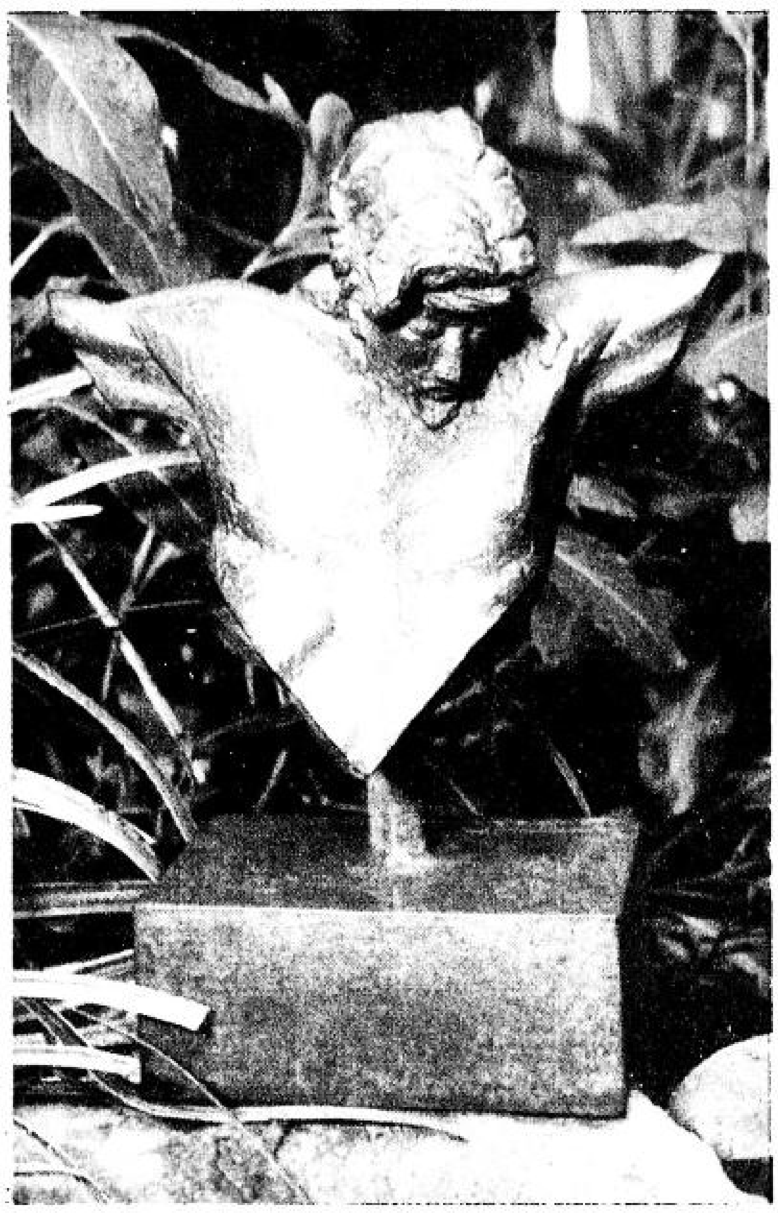

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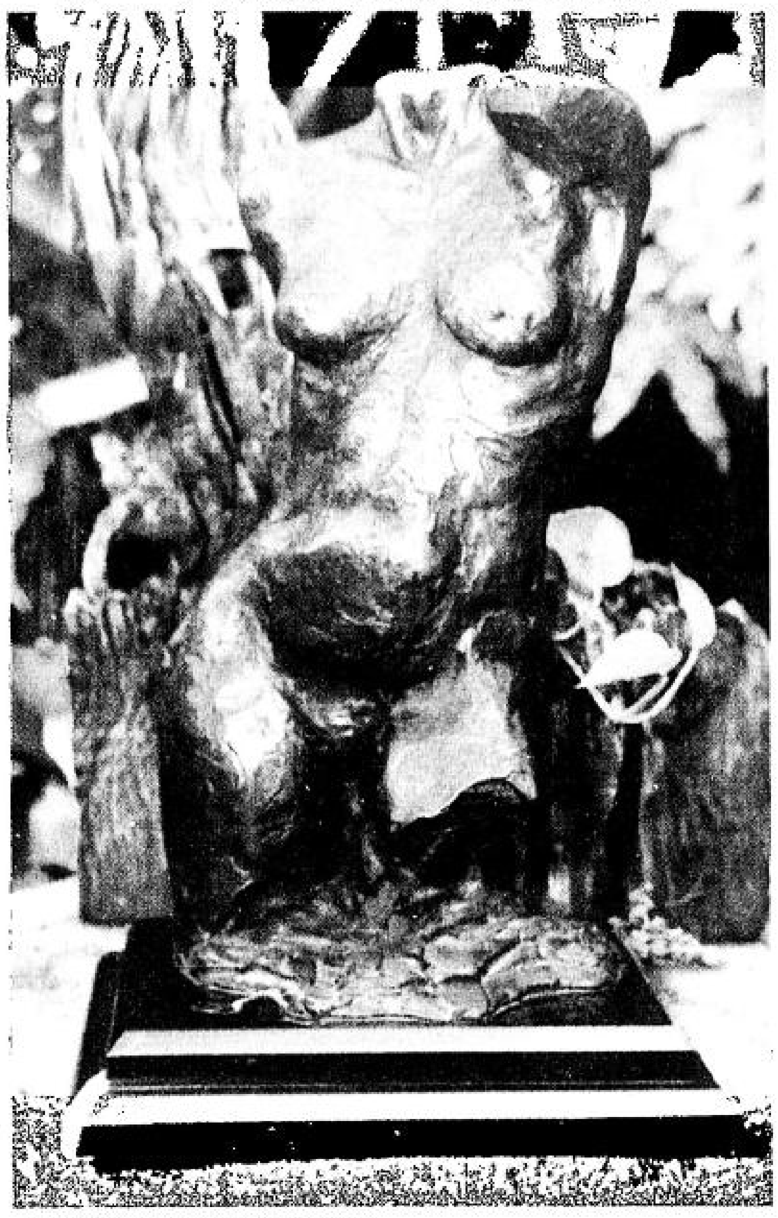

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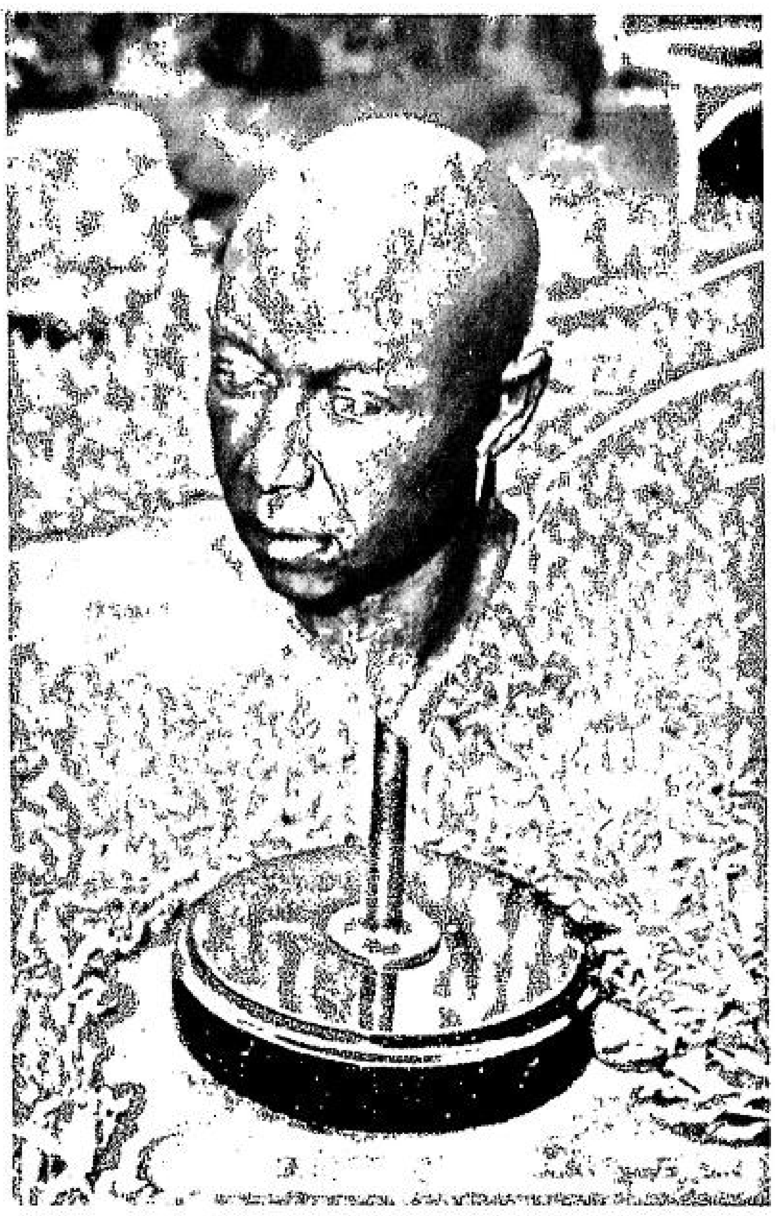


A SIDELONG or downward glance to create a sense of movement

Fil-Am artist carries on with classical Filipino sculpture

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Betoy Johnson

CLASSICAL Filipino sculptors such as Guillermo Tolentino, Anastacio Caedo and José Mendoza have not really left us, despite the onset of modernists like Napoleon Abueva and Eduardo Castrillo.

One sculptor who carries on with the tradition is 36-year-old Earl Edwin Enriquez, a Filipino American artist who creates classical figures with the attitude of the Baroque.

The youngest of five siblings, Enriquez was 7 when their father died. At that age, he decided to become an artist. (And he was still in prep school at La Salle-Greenhills yet.)

EARL Edwin Enriquez

The boy had found tucked in a book in the family library the sketches of his dad, who had been taking up art lessons. These were studies of a Japanese caricature, which the boy started copying.

"As I looked at his drawings, I was asking myself, How can I ever get this good?" Enriquez recalls during one of his perennial visits in Manila. "It was what motivated me for a long time."

After the father's death, the family left the country for the United States, when the boy was only 8. He attended the School of Visual Arts in New York, majoring in painting, before moving to the University of San Francisco in 1990.

In the first four years of art school, he did figurative works with oil on canvas as medium. He particularly admires Velasquez, Caravaggio, Tintoretto.

"They have this way with chiaroscuro so that the figure gives the illusion of being tridimensional, that you can actually walk around it," he enthuses. "And you get frustrated that you cannot."

Against abstraction

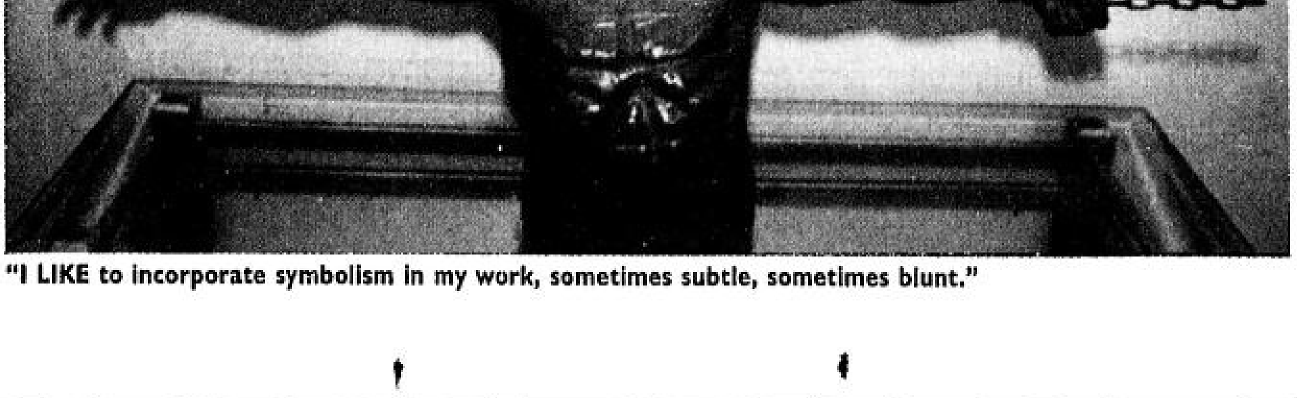
Then he discovered sculpture. "When I started sculpting, I forgot everything else," he says. "There's a medium here that's really tridimensional..."

In sculpture, he idolizes Bernini, Tolentino (specifically "The Oblation"), Bruce Wolf (a sculptor from Western US noted for the dramatic poses of his figures).

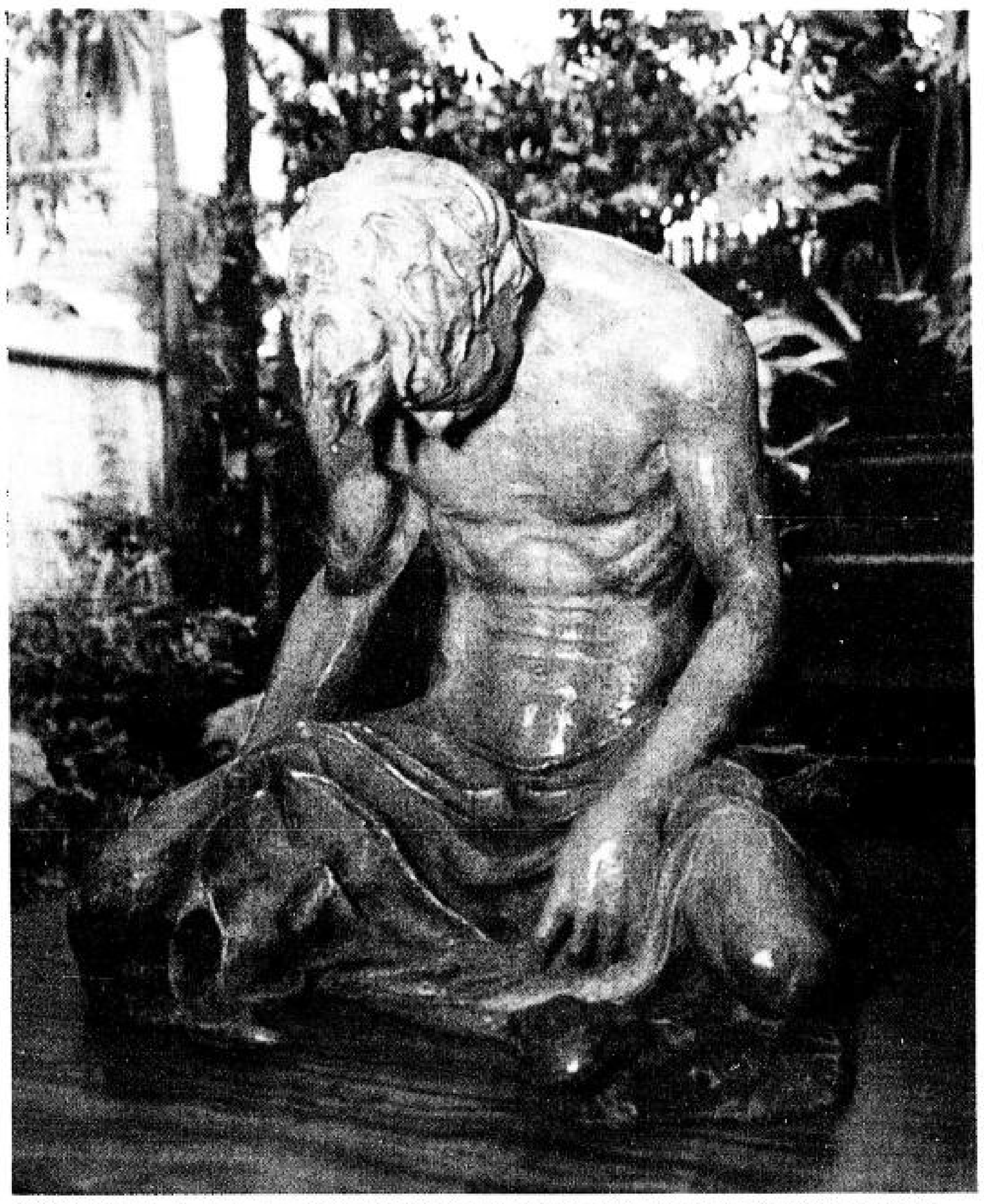
"For medium, as far as my work is concerned, I'm biased toward bronze," he says. "Because it is longer lasting. With stone, you can break an arm, a limb. Bronze outlives empires and generations." That's why when he's commissioned to do stone, wood, clay or plaster, he usually turns down the job.

He has been sculpting for 10 years now. His works, ranging from busts to life-size figures, from decorative to functional pieces, from the deeply religious to the blatantly erotic, can be found in private collections and as commissioned projects around the Bay Area and in the Philippines. "I like to incorporate symbolism in my work, sometimes subtle, sometimes blunt."

Patently figurative in his art, he has some biases against abstract works. "I have a hard time appreciating them. Often, they just put things together and call it art. Between a Pollock and another painting, a figurative one, with the same price, I would probably buy the other. I always look for reason behind a piece of art, a meaning in the lines, forms, colors, composition. With abstraction—I don't know, maybe some people get emotions out of it."



"I LIKE to incorporate symbolism in my work, sometimes subtle, sometimes blunt."



THE DRAMA, energy, emotion and dynamism that can be found in the figures of the Baroque

He qualifies, however. "Oh, yes, I also like looser figures. In fact, Giacometti I really like. I can appreciate that kind of work, but it's not something I'd attempt making. If I have to spend the effort, the time, the emotions to do something, I'd do the classical, the figurative."

Creating movement

He particularly scorns artists who proceed to the squirts and squiggles of abstraction without first learning the fundamentals, perfecting draftsmanship or mastering coloration. "You are abstracting something when you don't know what you are abstracting."

Meticulous in details, he would rigorously study the folds of a fabric, for instance, how it swirls, how it falls, before casting it into bronze. "If you're doing legitimate work, if you've been commissioned to do something, go the full length to give your patron a credible product. Especially in this business, where you're riding on your name, credibility is No. 1."

He points out that some artists create figures that look realistic but have no verisimilitude. They invest the human body with a sense of movement, for instance, while completely forgetting the facial expression that goes with it, thus producing a distorted pose but a stoic face.

"Everybody forgets to put emotions on the face," he smiles. "Bruce Wolf would spend two months on just the face."

He particularly prizes the drama, energy, emotion and dynamism that can be found in the figures of the Baroque, reaching its apogee with Bernini's melting rendition of "The Ecstasy of Saint Theresa."

A device Enriquez uses to create a sense of movement, even for his still figures and busts, is having the figure not looking straight ahead but casting a sidelong or downward glance, turning evasive eyes from the viewer. This, he believes, suggests action, a sense of direction, as if the figure were doing something, thinking, remembering.

Dangerous work

A life-size (6-7 ft tall) figure in bronze takes 100 hours to finish, from the piling of the oil clay on the armature (skeletal system of aluminum or steel bars, to support the clay), the casting, to the welding together of the four sets (head, torso, legs and arms).

A model can pose for the artist for a maximum of 20 minutes at a time, for three hours a session, at an average of 30 sessions. The model charges $17-$25 an hour, or $75 a session.

It's not only tedious work but also a dangerous job. Aside from handling of machinery, hazards include sulfur (from the oil clay), fiberglass powder (for mold-making), silica (during casting). Thus the artist has to wear headgear, respirator, dust mask.

Enriquez not only molds the clay but also casts the bronze and applies the patina. He shows some scars of cuts and burns in his hands and arms.

He says sculpting has become his life, to the point that if he can't sculpt for 2-3 days, he becomes irritable, cranky. "It's almost a necessity," he laughs.

With a noncommissioned work, he does 15 editions of each piece. He hasn't done a heroic figure (7-9 ft tall) yet. "I want to make my first monument here," he says.

Enriquez holds a regular job as production manager of the Artworks Foundry in San Francisco, but he visits the Philippines every year, wanting to establish connection with his roots.

As first step, he plans of putting up an exhibit of his sculptures in Manila in July or August next year. By then he expects his works to have become looser, and he may eventually return to painting.

He thinks of settling in the country later. And then he can regularly visit the tomb of his father.

YOUNG artistic souls in the heat of creation

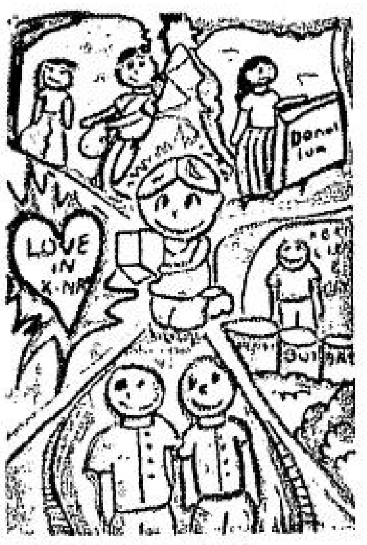
Kids paint the darnedest things, artistically

Winners of the Sacred Heart School's on-the-spot card drawing contest paint Christmas in the most celebratory of colors

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

"IT IS always better to start them off at a young age." Art educator Don Agustin "Amor" S. Amorsolo was referring to the zealous young kids who took part in the on-the-spot Christmas card drawing contest recently held at the Sacred Heart School in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City.

Don Amorsolo was one of the judges in the event, which drew some 170 kids, whose ages ranged from three to 12 years old. The contest was established four years ago.


LOVE IN X-MAS
Donation

GRAND prize winner

This year's contest revolved around the theme "The Gift of Love this Christmas."

The contest was divided into Category A (3-6 years old) and Category B (7-12 years old).

Category B winner, 12-year-old John Christian San Pedro from Claret School in Quezon City, took home the grand prize. San Pedro bested Category A winner, seven-year-old Leonard Joseph Maldo, a grade one student from Cavite City.

San Pedro's winning entry featured dividers that separated colorful images related with Christmas. It will be used as the official cover of Sacred Heart School's corporate Christmas card.

"I often use dividers in my works because it's easier; I just think of what image I would put in every section," San Pedro said.

Runner-up winners in Category A were Ariana Mercado, a first grader from OB Montessori in Pasay City, and Michelle Eala, also a first grader from Assumption College.

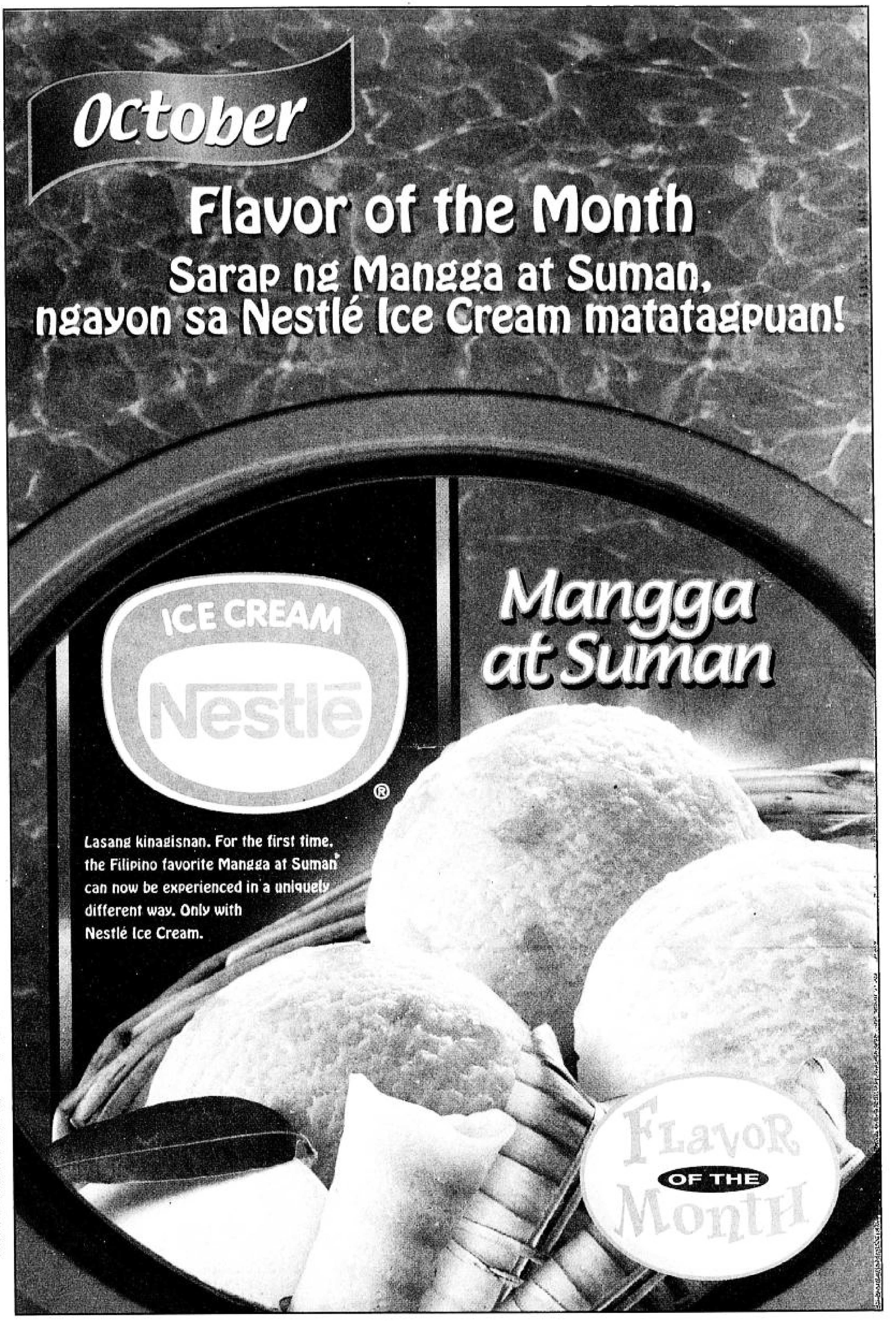
Runner-up winners in Category B, meanwhile, were Liz Yvette Caballes and John Bahrain Aure.

The on-the-spot Christmas-card making contest is a program by the Sacred Heart School, which aims to cultivate children's artistic skills.

Other judges in this year's contest were visual artist Susan Roces, Arts Association of the Philippines' board member Buddy Convocar,

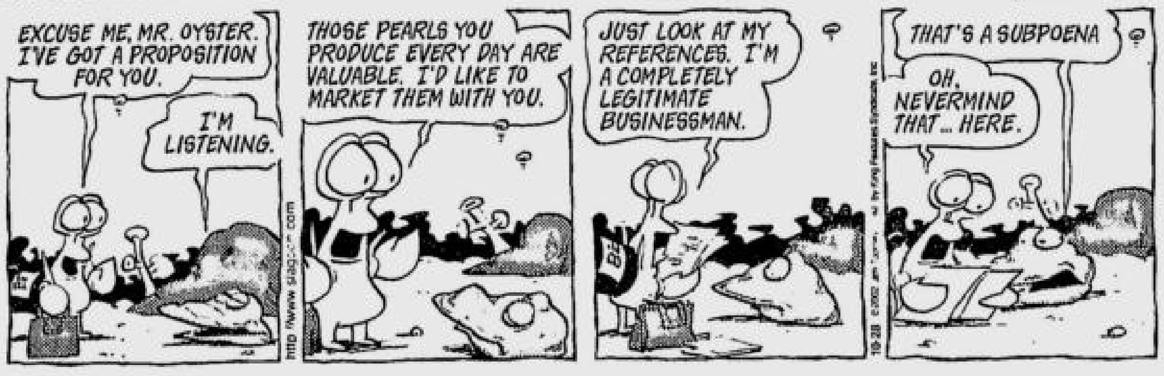
KIDS/ p.E6

GRAND prize winner John Christian San Pedro with judges Don Agustin Amorsolo and Susan Roces, and school director Rowena Matti

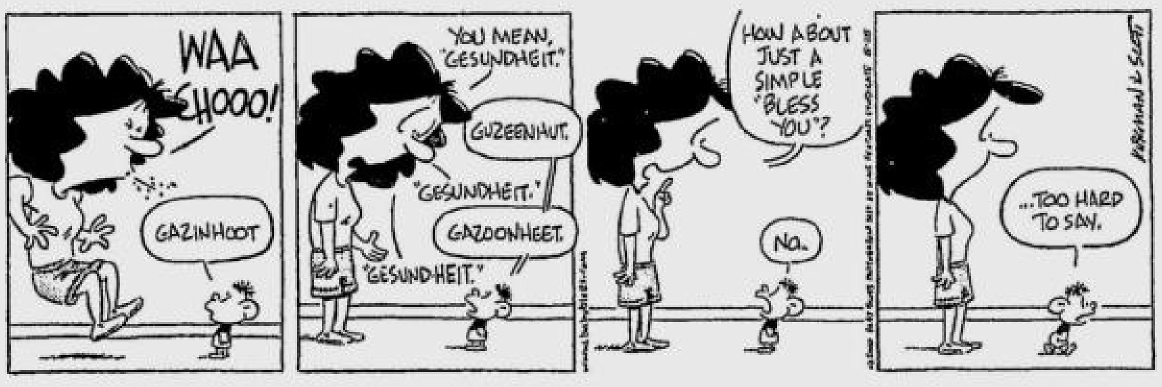

October
Flavor of the Month
Sarap ng Mangga at Suman,
ngayon sa Nestlé Ice Cream matatagpuan!
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
Mangga at Suman
Lasang kinagisnan. For the first time, the Filipino favorite Mangga at Suman can now be experienced in a uniquely different way. Only with Nestlé Ice Cream.
Flavor of the Month

Guess who's been seen
in the company of a National Artist
at National Book Store.

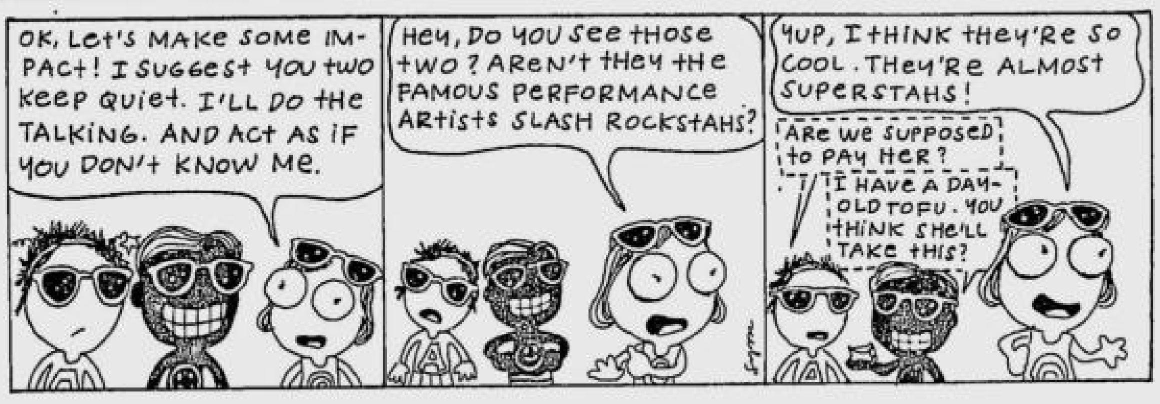
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


EXCUSE ME, MR. OYSTER. I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
I'M LISTENING.
THOSE PEARLS YOU PRODUCE EVERY DAY ARE VALUABLE. I'D LIKE TO MARKET THEM WITH YOU.
JUST LOOK AT MY REFERENCES. I'M A COMPLETELY LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN.
THAT'S A SUBPOENA
OH, NEVERMIND THAT... HERE.

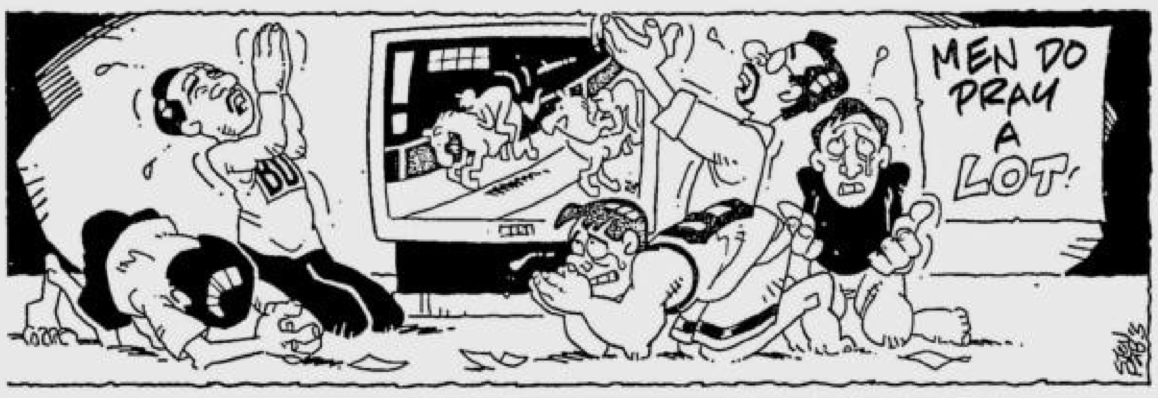
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAA SHOOO!
GAZINHOOT
YOU MEAN, "GESUNDHEIT."
GUZEENHUT.
"GESUNDHEIT."
GAZOONHEET.
"GESUNDHEIT."
HOW ABOUT JUST A SIMPLE "BLESS YOU"?
NO.
...TOO HARD TO SAY.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OK, Let's MAKE some IMPACt! I suggest you two keep quiet. I'LL Do the TALKING. AND Act As if you DON't KNOW Me.
Hey, Do you see those two? AREN't they the FAMOUS PERFORMANCE Artists SLASH RockstAHs?
yup, I think they're so cool. They're ALMOST SUPERSTAHS!
Are we supposed to pay Her?
I HAVE A DAY-OLD TOFU. YOU think she'll take this?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MEN DO PRAY A LOT!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julia Roberts, Bill Gates, Jonas Salk, Cleo Laine

Happy Birthday: Be careful not to take on so much this year that you get bogged down. You will accomplish a lot if you are focused and willing to put your heart and soul into your future prospects. Make an effort to spend more time with your loved ones this year. You'll receive support and encouragement from them. Your numbers are 8, 13, 16, 22, 28, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This will be an upsetting day if you jump to conclusions and take unnecessary actions. Don't let business and emotional problems interfere with one another.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have emotional confrontations with close friends or relatives. Avoid serious discussions. It's best to keep your feelings to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put all thoughts of work out of your head. It is time for you to get serious about relaxation and meeting new friends. Look for intelligent entertainment that will engage you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't jump to conclusions without having all the pertinent facts. Ask questions first and listen carefully to the answers. Sudden changes in your home may be disruptive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Secret love affairs must be avoided. You will find that the person in question is just playing with your emotions. Concentrate on your work and career.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will get involved in worthwhile organizations. Those involved in the groups will appreciate your abilities and talents. Show appreciation for the youngsters in your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Relax and enjoy yourself. Yes, there is a lot to be done; however, if you plan carefully there will be no problem accomplishing everything on time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't hesitate to present your ideas and put them into action. You will be well received if you talk to large groups. Take center stage and let people see the real you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Although a weight has been lifted off your shoulders, the stress you encountered has taken its toll. Stomach problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. Break old habits and implement better ones.

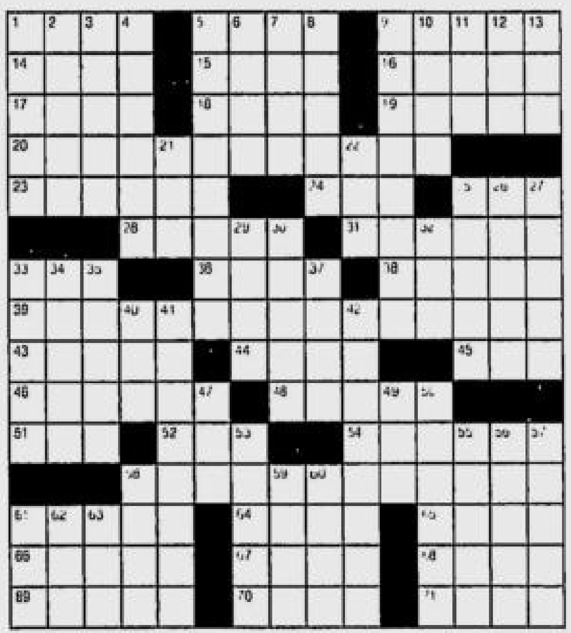
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't trust a deal that looks too good. You may find that your personal partner is a little fed up with your preoccupation with business. It's important to maintain balance in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to take a break, but too many good opportunities are taking place in your work area. This is the time to take advantage of them or you will lose out. However, you can mix business with pleasure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make amends with children, however, you will have to work hard to get their understanding and trust back. Make sure you take into consideration what is important to them.

Birthday Baby: You will be a warm and loving child, but you will also be determined to get your own way. You will have the need to see matters through to the end and will never give up on something or someone you care about.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

10/28/02

ACROSS
1 God of love
5 Shrinking Asian sea
9 Artistic Grandma
14 Son of Leah and Jacob
15 Sole
16 Madonna title role
17 Pindarics
18 Philosopher Immanuel
19 Soviet labor camp
20 Shire
23 Real
24 Black gold
25 Buddy
28 Interjections of disdain
31 Criminal second marriage
33 Gardner of "The Barefoot Contessa"
36 Small amount
38 Doughnut-shaped object
39 Shire
43 Directory
44 Culture medium
45 You bet!
46 $100 bills
48 Use the delete key
51 Corn serving
52 Gangster's gun
54 Bellybuttons
58 Shire
61 Physicist Enrico
64 Opera highlight
65 Song for two
66 Links obstacles
67 Artist Chagall
68 Upright
69 Swing a thurible
70 Editor's directive
71 Prophet

DOWN
1 Island farewell
2 Army doc
3 Open to view
4 Rebel
5 Nicotine or quinine, e.g.
6 Colorful mount
7 "__ Karenina"
8 Release
9 Stonehenge stone
10 Caesar's egg
11 Part of RSVP
12 Zeta follower
13 Droop
21 __ Paulo, Brazil
22 Tease
25 Ward off
26 Entertain
27 Cell destructions
29 Round dance
30 Period in a process
32 Sentimental drivel
33 Carroll's girl
34 Letter-lady White
35 Passion
37 Distant
40 Obtain
41 Work out
42 Do business
47 Drunkard
49 Took a chair
50 Gets around
53 Fluid ounce fractions
55 Dodge
56 Feudal lord
57 Half-goat man
58 Current units, briefly
59 Part of QED
60 Foal's father
61 Govt. economics agcy.
62 Bard's before
63 Operated

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

F	R	A	C	T	U	R	E	■	I	D	L	E	S	T
R	E	Q	U	I	R	E	D	■	N	U	A	N	C	E
U	S	U	R	P	I	N	G	■	C	E	N	S	O	R
S	T	I	R	■	S	T	I	M	U	L	A	N	T	S
T	O	N	E	D	■	S	N	O	B	S	■	A	T	E
U	R	A	N	U	S	■	G	P	A	■	I	R	I	S
M	E	S	C	A	L	■	S	E	T	■	M	E	E	T
■	■	■	I	D	E	S	■	D	O	R	M	■	■	■
T	A	M	E	■	E	L	S	■	R	O	A	S	T	S
E	N	O	S	■	V	I	I	■	S	I	T	O	U	T
A	D	O	■	C	E	D	E	S	■	S	E	L	M	A
C	O	N	V	A	L	E	S	C	E	■	R	U	B	Y
U	R	B	A	N	E	■	T	E	R	R	I	B	L	E
P	R	O	S	E	S	■	A	N	N	E	A	L	E	R
S	A	W	E	R	S	■	S	E	E	D	L	E	S	S

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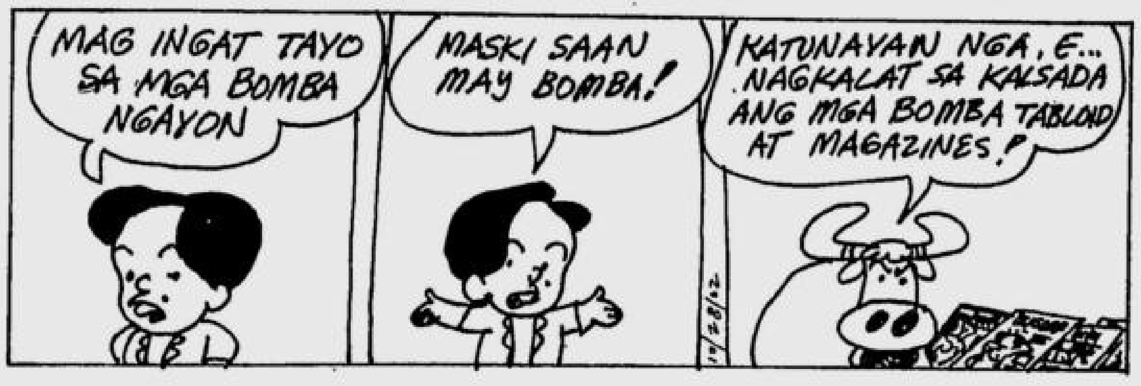
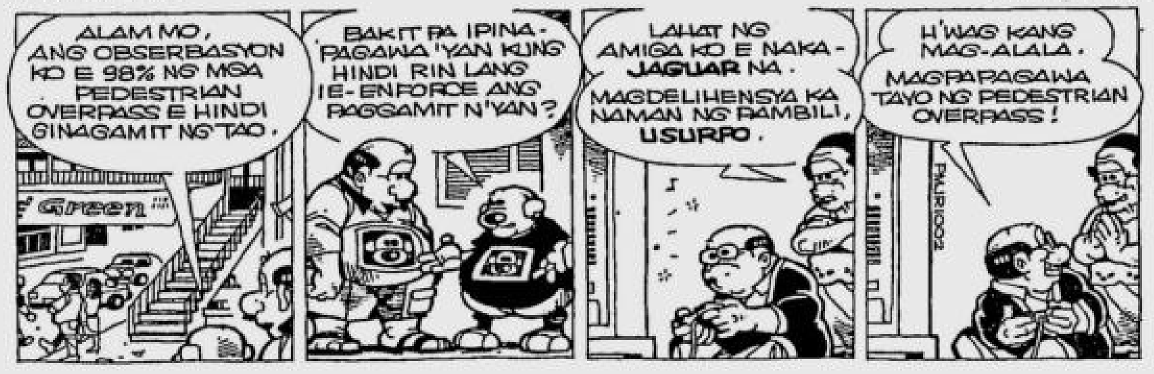
10/26/02

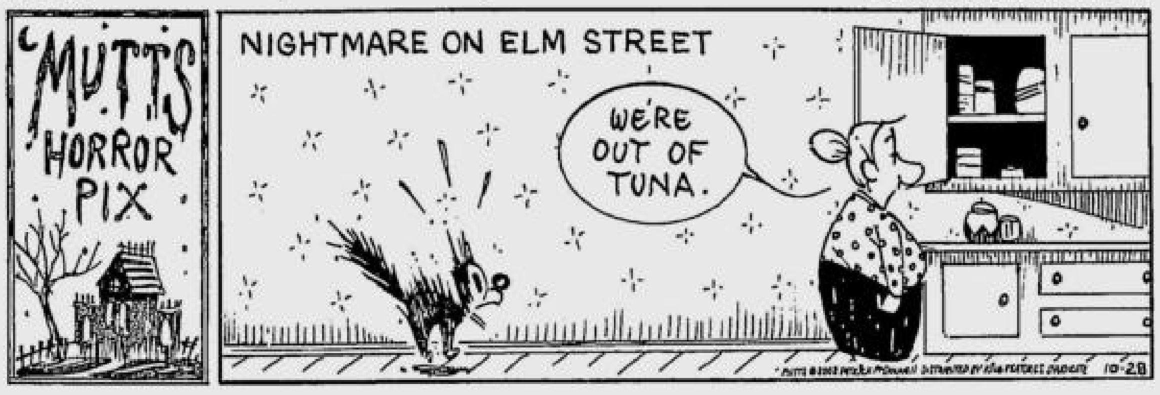
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MAG INGAT TAYO SA MGA BOMBA NGAYON
MASKI SAAN MAY BOMBA!
KATUNAYAN NGA, E... NAGKALAT SA KALSADA ANG MGA BOMBA TABLOID AT MAGAZINES!
10/28/02

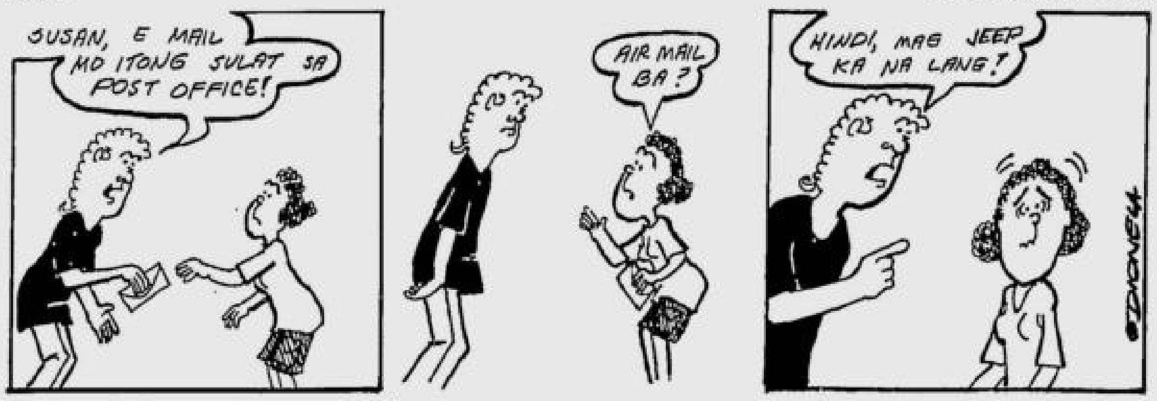
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO, ANG OBSERBASYON KO E 98% NG MGA PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS E HINDI GINAGAMIT NG TAO.
BAKIT PA IPINAPAGAWA 'YAN KUNG HINDI RIN LANG IE-ENFORCE ANG PAGGAMIT N'YAN?
LAHAT NG AMIGA KO E NAKA-JAGUAR NA.
MAGDELIHENSYA KA NAMAN NG PAMBILI, USURPO.
H'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA.
MAGPAPAGAWA TAYO NG PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS!
Green

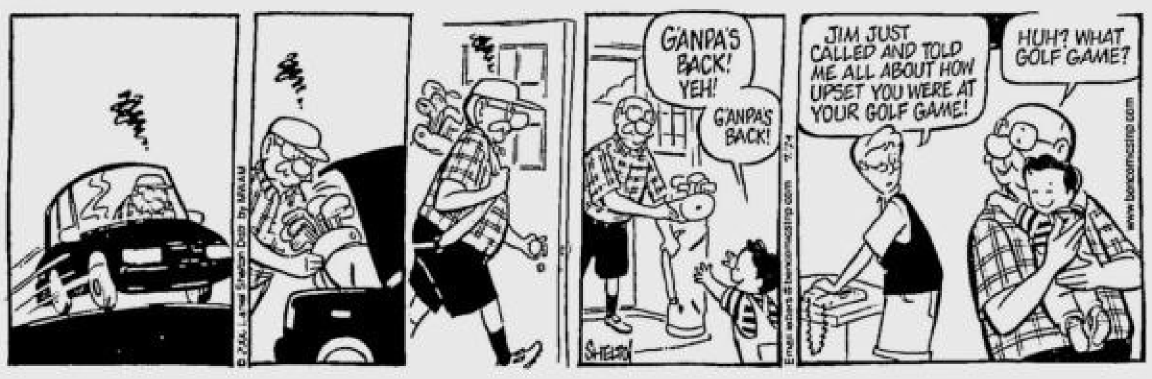
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS HORROR PIX
NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
WE'RE OUT OF TUNA.
10-28

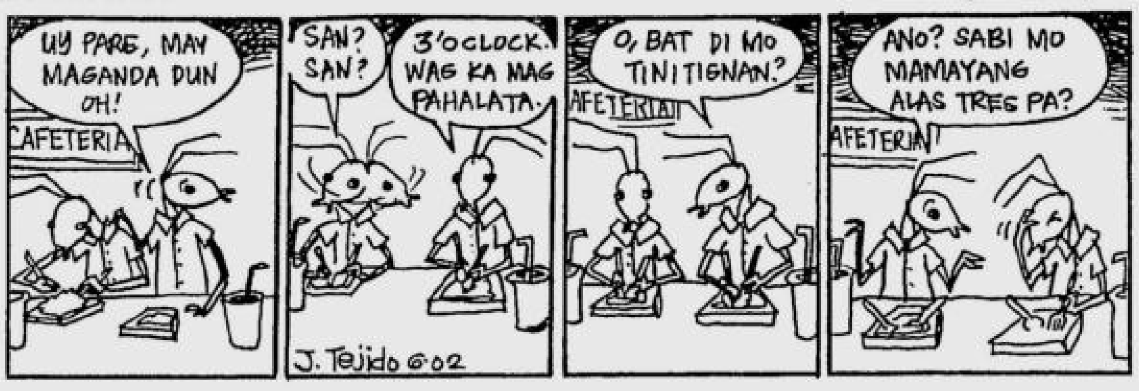
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SUSAN, E MAIL MO ITONG SULAT SA POST OFFICE!
AIR MAIL BA?
HINDI, MAG JEEP KA NA LANG!
DIONELA

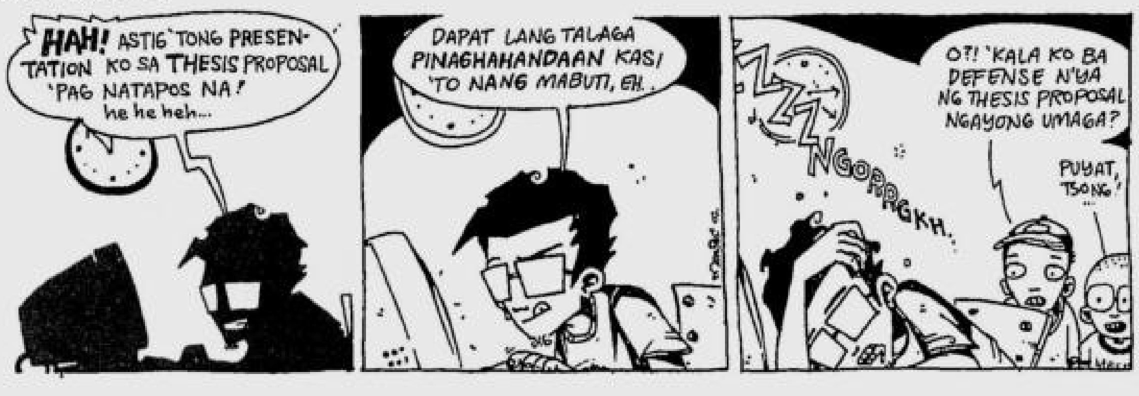
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


G'ANPA'S BACK! YEH!
G'ANPA'S BACK!
JIM JUST CALLED AND TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HOW UPSET YOU WERE AT YOUR GOLF GAME!
HUH? WHAT GOLF GAME?

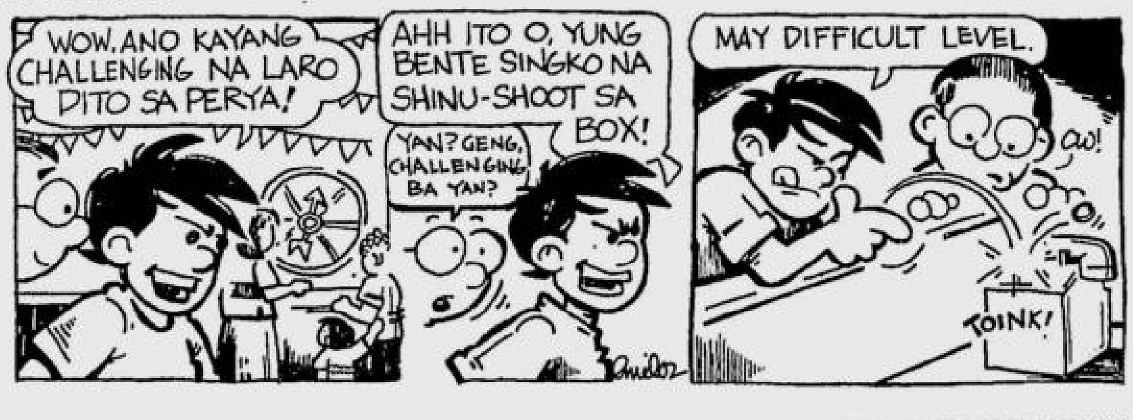
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


UY PARE, MAY MAGANDA DUN OH!
CAFETERIA
SAN? SAN?
3'OCLOCK. WAG KA MAG PAHALATA.
O, BAT DI MO TINITIGNAN?
ANO? SABI MO MAMAYANG ALAS TRES PA?
J. Tejido 6-02

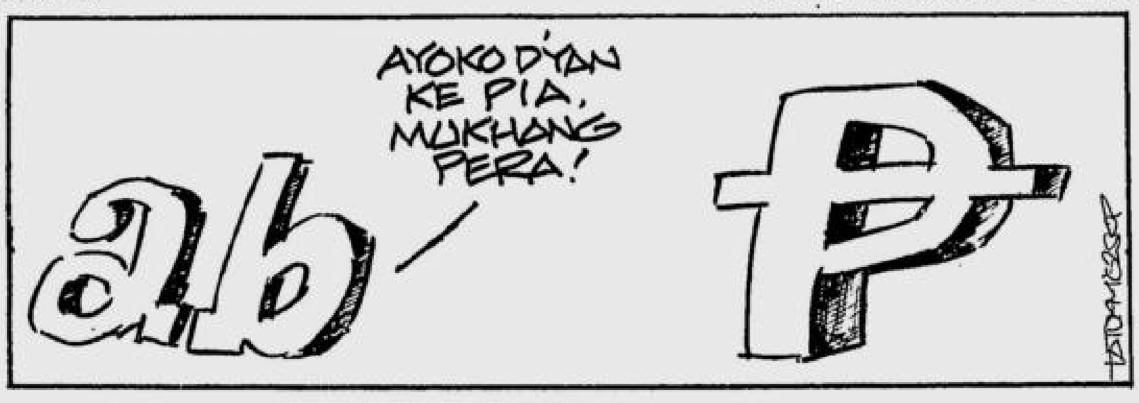
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! ASTIG 'TONG PRESENTATION KO SA THESIS PROPOSAL 'PAG NATAPOS NA! he he heh...
DAPAT LANG TALAGA PINAGHAHANDAAN KASI 'TO NANG MABUTI, EH.
ZZZ NGORRRGKH..
O?! 'KALA KO BA DEFENSE N'YA NG THESIS PROPOSAL NGAYONG UMAGA?
PUYAT, TSONG!

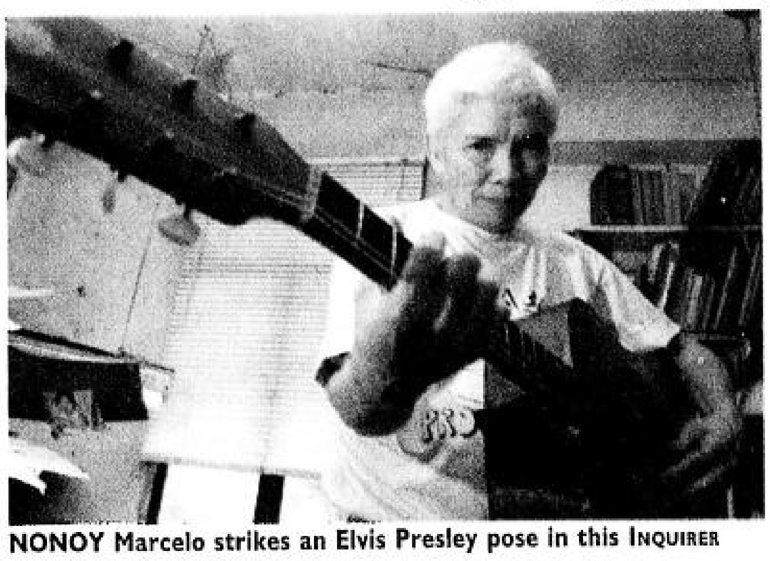
GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


WOW, ANO KAYANG CHALLENGING NA LARO DITO SA PERYA!
AHH ITO O, YUNG BENTE SINGKO NA SHINU-SHOOT SA BOX!
YAN? GENG, CHALLENGING BA YAN?
MAY DIFFICULT LEVEL.
OO!
TOINK!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO D'YAN KE PIA, MUKHANG PERA!
ab
P

Embraced by the light—and by Tisoy, Aling Otik and Ikabod



NONOY Marcelo strikes an Elvis Presley pose in this INQUIRER pictorial in April 2001.

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

ONE more of our own has fallen from the Pinoy tree of life. I'm happy to report this fruit sweet to the lingering aftertaste.

Dear Nonoy Marcelo succumbed to diabetes, with complications in heart, liver and prostate, in late October. Besieged by traffic, flash floods and bomb threats in impossible Metro Manila, few of his countless friends made it to a last farewell.

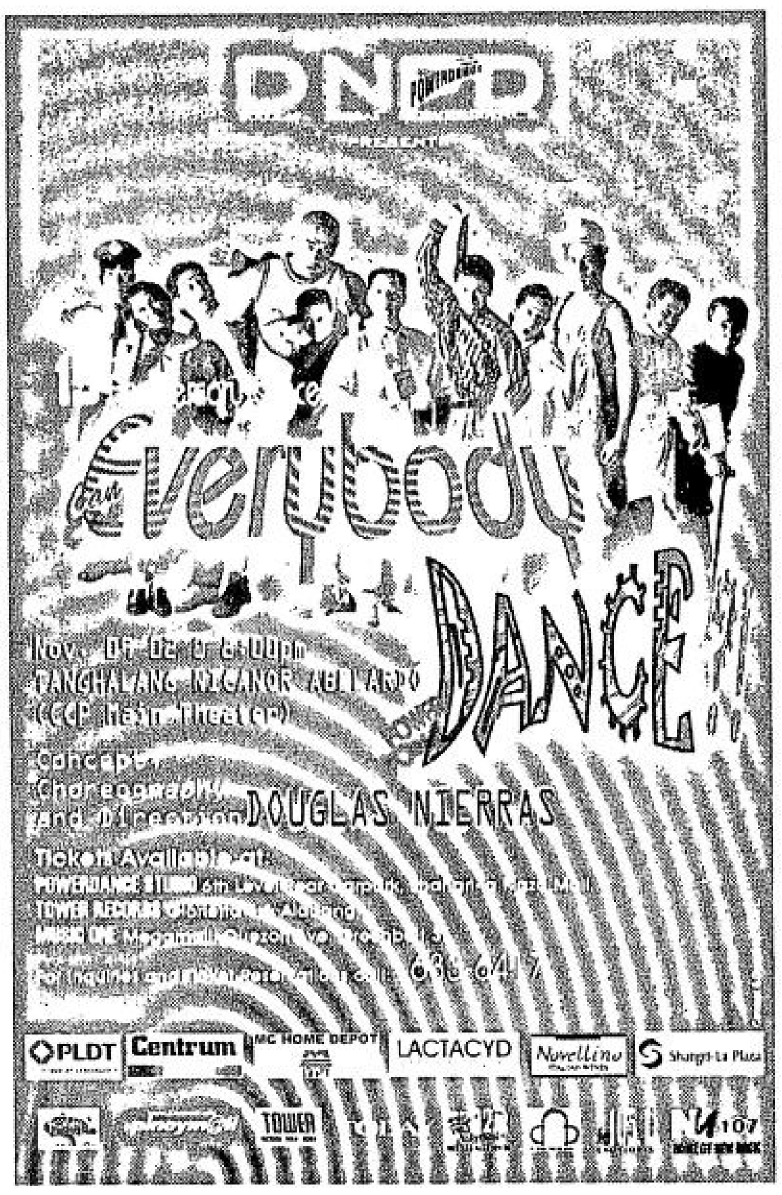
He gave us so little time—only 11 days after the first agony had him wearily consenting to confinement. ("*Hindi ako naniniwala diyan*," he grimly told his eldest child Dario.)

Because he did not want it broadcast to the world, days passed before news leaked out that his cartoonist chum Beth Chionglo had quietly put Nonoy in the care of a doctor brother-in-law at the Chinese General Hospital. By the time a mini texting storm built up in media and art circles on what old friends could do, he was going.

And even as many managed to wriggle out of previous schedules to finally make the trek, his biological systems, announced by high fever, were already breaking down one by one—and Nonoy was gone.

Already feeling deprived of his wit, sudden bursts of unplumbed wisdom and neon-lit imagination on seven-league boots, eight close friends—another microcosm of the humanity that is his real family—found themselves beginning the first night of his wake in Malate. It started with an elegant dinner of red wine over Spanish *tapas* in an intimate birthday celebration among old friends, postponed so often it merged with the first

EMBRACED/ p.E8



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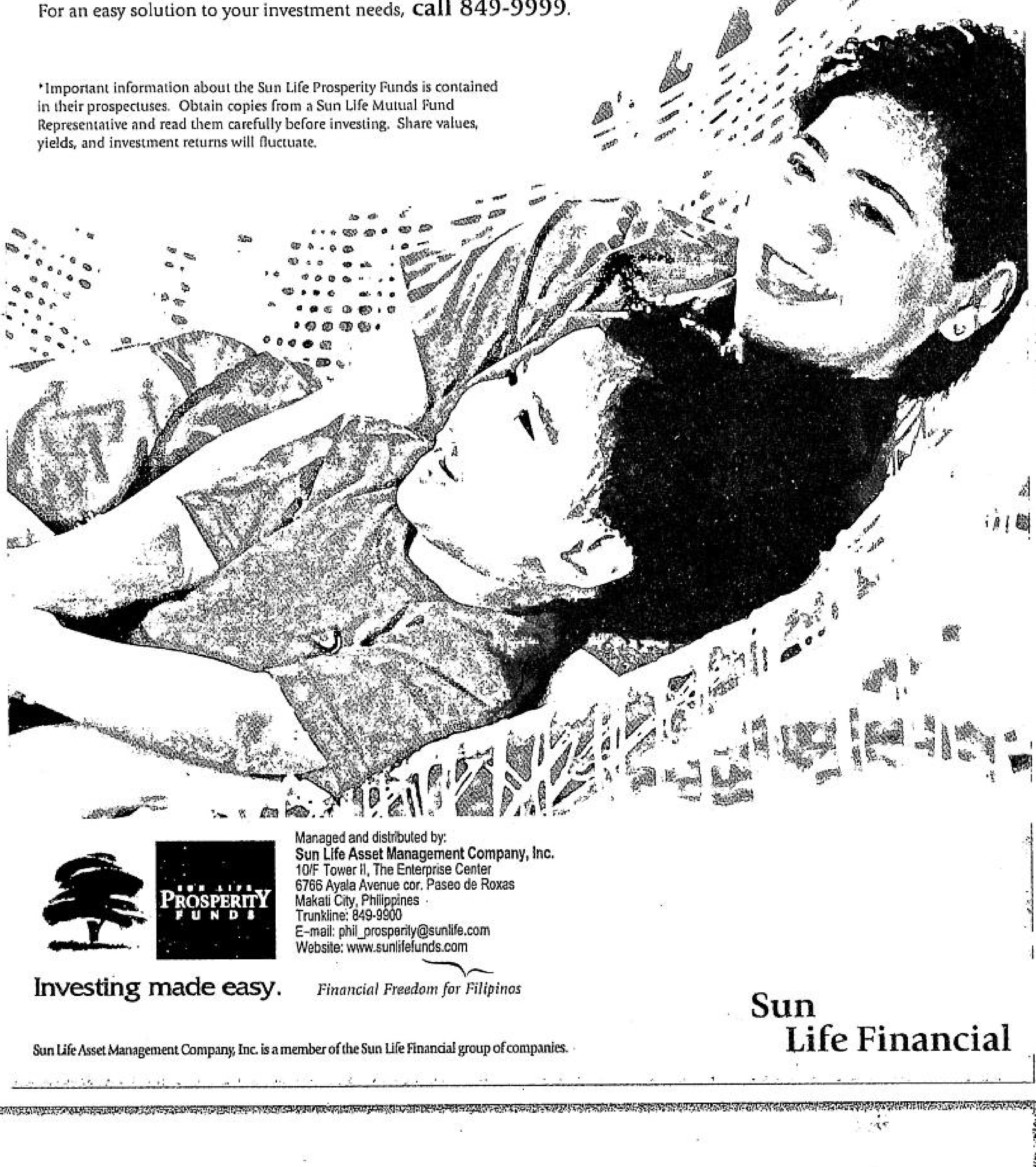

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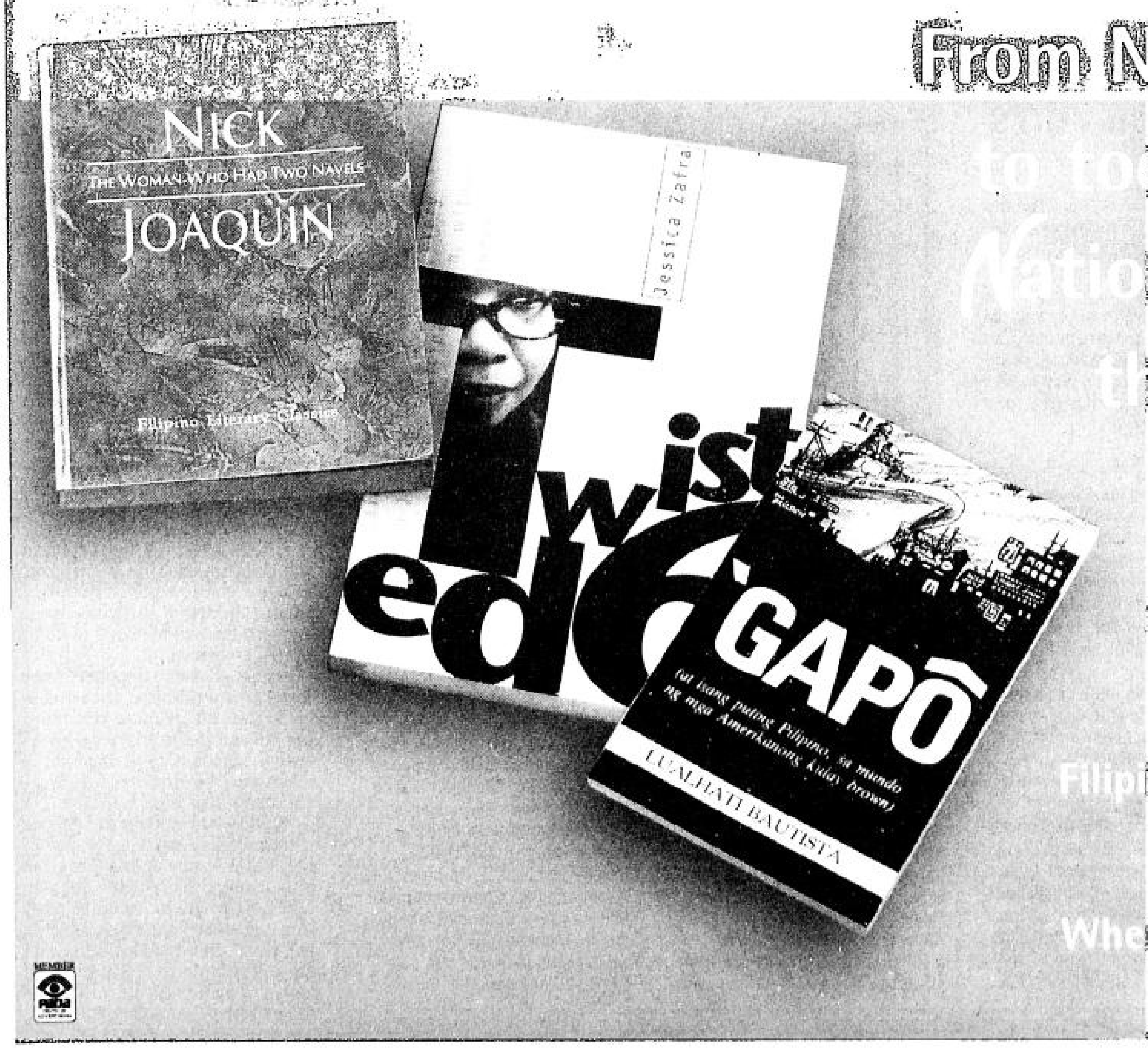

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"IS this the work of someone who's supposed to be dying?" The artist, Susan Luis Aycardo, with one of her works

Susan Luis Aycardo shows how the Big C has opened doors for the Bigger C—the celebration of life

She paints colors that defy her cancer

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Betoy Johnson

THE WEALTH of talent was struggling to surface. But she felt there was so much time ahead it had to take a backseat. After all, she was living the life most women could only dream of—with three healthy sons and a good husband. And she was living it, understandably, in contentment. Other things could wait.

Then the unexpected happened.

Diagnosed last year with a Stage 4 breast cancer, 35-year-old Susan Luis Aycardo has since undergone three chemotherapy/radiation treatments and has had two surgeries, one of which cost her her right breast.

However optimistic, she now admits to the difficulty of her ordeal. It hit her that any day could be her last.

"I needed an outlet," she says of her emotional limbo.

In April, she finally picked up the brush and started painting. Thereafter was unleashed an immense artistry begging to be tapped.

Novice

With no formal training in the visual arts, Aycardo says she used to draw with pastels but only as a hobby. "When I first bought some acrylic paints, I didn't even know how to mix them," she says. "I had to ask the help of my sister, Sheila Tiangco, who's a watercolorist."

The novice painter used to work with the family-owned Pilô restaurant before she decided to concentrate on raising her boys, aged 11, 5 and 2. Her husband Gerald is the president of Samson College of Science and Technology.

"When Noelle Hechanova, a young woman who was getting chemotherapy at about the same time as I was, succumbed to the disease in July, I felt I had to take to the task [of painting] seriously," she says.

At the time, Aycardo was also suffering a recurrence. "I wanted to leave something behind." It is little wonder her favorite is the series she calls "Ode to Noelle," which she worked on intensely after learning of the 23-year-old's passing.

"I've always wanted—but dreaded—to do two things," she says, "and those were to run a marathon and to become a painter. Now I've done both," she adds with a laugh.

Last Oct. 10, in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Aycardo's acrylic works on canvas were featured in a fund-raising exhibit at the main lobby of the Makati Medical Center. It was also her 13th wedding anniversary.

The exhibit, titled "Light Inside My Mind," was presented by Bosom Buddies, a support group for women with breast cancer. The group was founded in December 1998 by Linda Panutat and Marisette Galang, both cancer survivors, and oncologist Diana Cua.

Verdant buds

Dedicating each work to friends who are also battling—or have survived—the Big C, Aycardo says she thinks in color. "I feel the moment, and that's where I get the inspiration," she says. Her flowers in bright, vivid hues, are testaments to her happy moods.

Unceasingly enthusiastic and positive despite her illness, Aycardo, who recently returned from another treatment in the United States, says she has accepted her fate. "There was no good news [from the trip]," she says, letting out a sigh that belies any hint of sorrow in her voice. "I know the cancer is here to stay. I just hope the chemo continues to work... I had to explain that to my 11-year-old."

She knows her husband is having a very difficult time, but her ordeal has brought them closer together. "He realized *na mahal na mahal pala niya ako*," she says with a laugh. "Our relationship has never been better."

Admitting she was never really religious, Aycardo says she now draws strength from God. "Oh, I knew there was a God, I believed there was a God," she says, "but it's true you never truly appreciate Him until you go through a serious situation. And I have a wonderful family and friends who've been supportive all the time."

When the rainy season started in May, Aycardo began painting leaves—young, lush verdant buds—pictures of hope and new life. "Is that the work of someone who's dying?" she asks.

Acknowledging the prohibitive cost of chemotherapy, Aycardo says she feels grateful that she can afford the treatment. She knows others are not as fortunate. The proceeds of her exhibit will be used to cover chemotherapy drugs for chosen patients. "I have observed that free mammography is being given here, but not free chemo," she says. Dr. Francis Lopez of the MMC will administer the chemo, also for free.

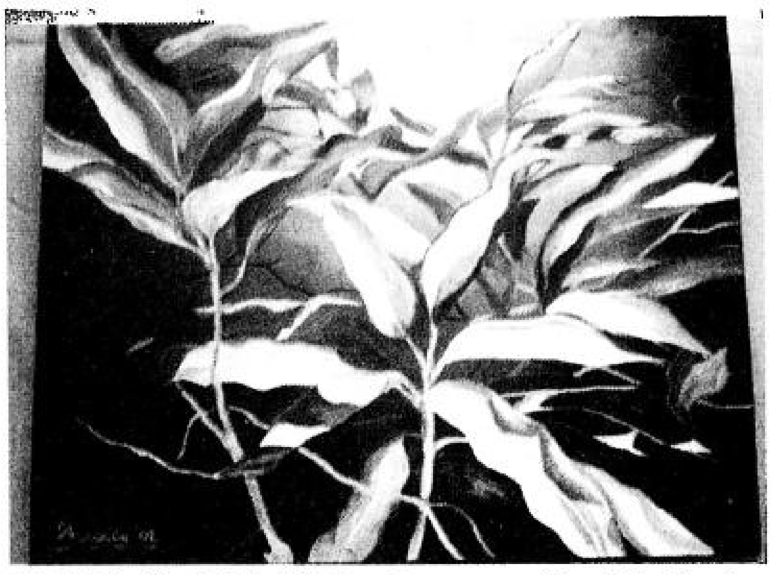
"I'm not trying to save the world," she says. "If I can help one at a time, that will make a whole world of difference."

Aycardo swears she feels at peace even with the uncertainty of her condition. "It's not a death sentence. It's your chance to celebrate life," she says. "You can realize your dreams even with cancer."

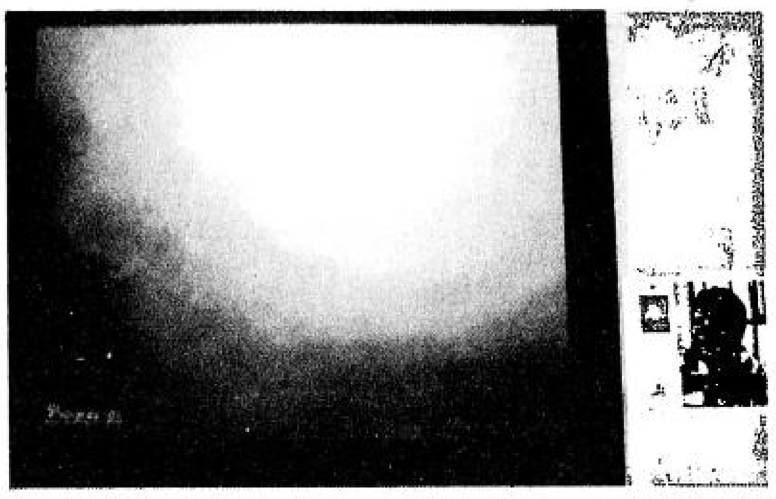
"Light Inside My Mind" is now on display at PowerBooks, Arnaiz Road, Makati City, where it will remain until the end of October.

For inquiries and donations to breast cancer programs, call Raciel at 810-0818/0330.

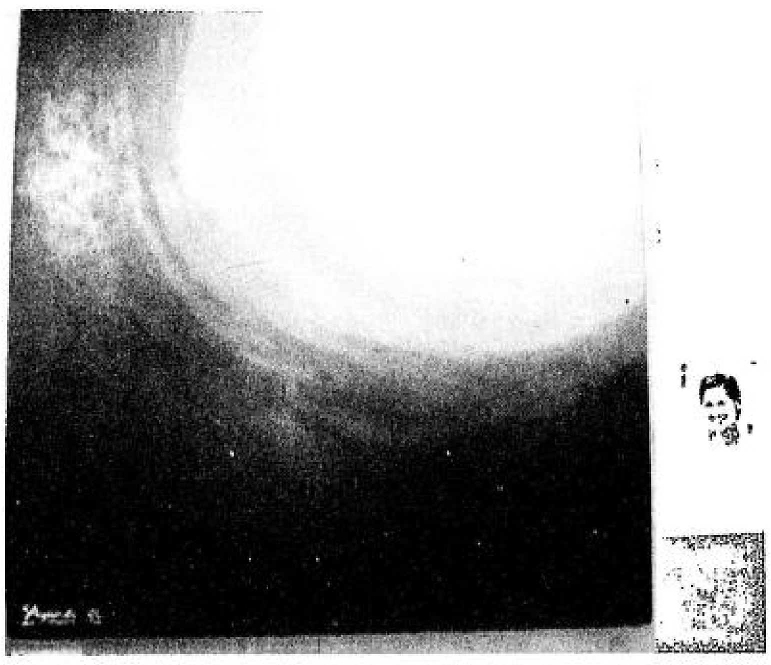
NEW HOPE. Olongapo City Mayor Kate Gordon, Aycardo, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Dr. Diana Cua and Dr. Raul Forés (partly hidden) open the exhibit at the Makati Medical Center.



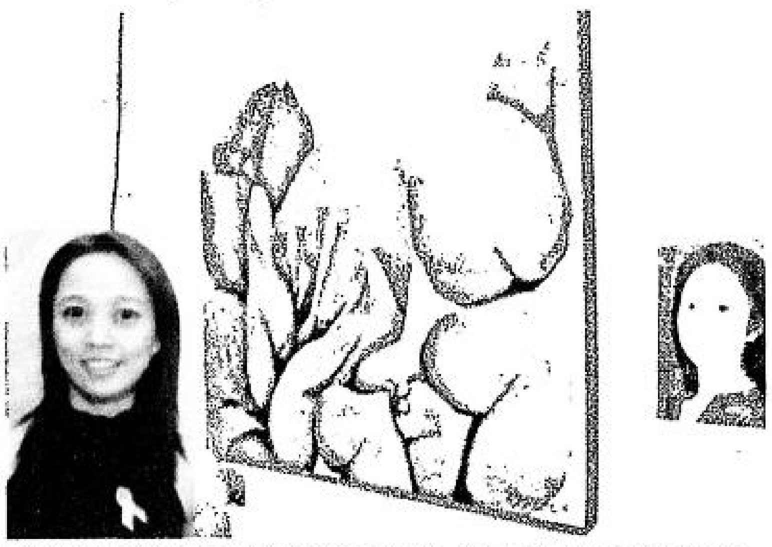
"LIGHT Inside My Mind 4," the piece reserved for PDI editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc



"ODE to Noelle," part of the series dedicated to the late Noelle Hechanova

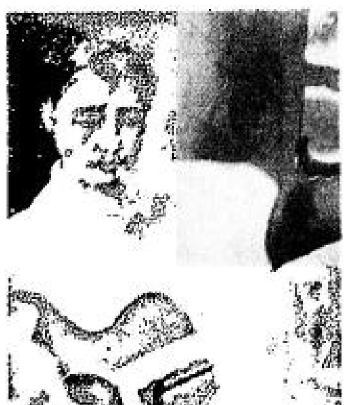


THE PIECE inspired by cancer survivor Patricia Borromeo



THE WORK AND THE INSPIRATION. Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala with "Blossoms in My Bosom 2"

Young artists at Genesis; Paloma at West; 4th Level at Nine



"LONELY Tylenol" by Anthony Palomo

VISUAL ARTS

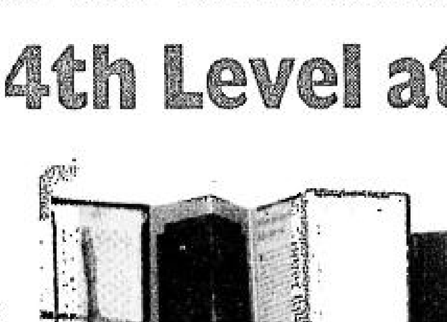
GALLERY Genesis presents "Pintanaw Isang Makulay na Pananaw," an art exhibit of 14 young and talented artists: Lino Acasio, Boy Bandalan, Buds Convocar, Noel Catacutan, Dems de la Cruz, Eliezer Dimaculangan, Caloy Gabuco, Jimmy Kwong, Robbie Nubla, Fred Ramirez, Omi Reyes, Danilo Santiago, Melencio Sapnu and Fidel Sarmiento. The exhibit opens Nov. 7, 6 p.m., at the Gallery Genesis, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandalayong City. The exhibit will run until Nov. 21. Call 633-8137or 38.

"IF I Had a Hi Fi," Anthony Palomo's exhibit of watercolor paintings, is showing at the West Gallery Glorietta 4, 3/L, Ayala Center, Makati City. The exhibit is rooted on the idea of palindromes, words of phrases that read the same forward or backward as in "*Nasa Bayabasan.*" It also delves into the artist's avid interest in music. The exhibit runs until Nov.7. Call 752-7028 to 29.

"3PITCH" is the title of a three-man exhibit featuring the 4th Level Art Group members Andrew Tee, Jeps Belen and Jo Austria. Showcasing their recent works on canvas, the artists offer serial abstractions on the theme of unity in individuality. The exhibit runs until Oct. 30 at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall. Call 687-7302.

"TIME +space=motion," a group exhibit that defines the distance of time and space, features painting students of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts. Ana Cabardo, Jong Pairez, Vijan Pamulaklakin, Gerard Baja, Tomas Leonor and Edrick Daniel use different disciplines in producing works of art, including installations, assemblages, and hardcore paintings in interpreting motion and mobility. The exhibit runs until Nov. 11 at Crowded House, UP Diliman, QC.

PABLO Trillana III, Raul Isidro and Dean Jaime de los Santos are shown during the ribbon cutting for "Moving On," an exhibit by the Grupong Atelier of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Fine Arts, at the Galeria de las Islas (3/F Silahis Center, 744 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila). On exhibit are 77 works using different styles and media. Participating artists are Jossie Abella, Mildred Aquino, Billy Burgos, Mary Rose Carpio, Ernesto Castillo, Judy Co-Salamat, India de la Cruz, Herminio del Rosario, Noel Escultura, Dodie Faustino, Feody Faustino, Homer Gutierrez, Tina Ocampo Mercado, Rhoda Recto, Marylou San Agustin-Myers, Romy Salao and Trio Tamayo. Call 527-2113.



"BOOKS as Such," a book art exhibit by Delfin Tolentino, is on view at The Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll (Maryknoll Campo Sioco, Baguio City) until Dec. 1. Hardbound books in the exhibition represent various experiments on the book form as a vehicle for artistic expression. A creative integration of form and content, book art takes the narrative structure of books in innovative and unexpected directions. Call (074) 442-4602 or 442-4926.

THE AUSTRALIAN Embassy, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the United Nations in the Philippines, holds the third exhibition of mixed media artworks by Wo/Men in Residence, a group of expatriate artists in Manila. "Wired/3 Fiesta" at the NCCA Gallery (633 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila) features diverse expressions of various cultures through paintings, photographs, textiles, silk fusion and quilt creations by Sharon Bradley (Canada), Kavita Chhabra (India), Claire-Lise Schumacher (Switzerland), Sa-Ock Kim (Korea), Tilak Hettige (Sri Lanka), Corinne Fraser and Paw Shaw (Australia). Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. The exhibit runs until Nov. 15. Call 527-2175 or 754-6135.

Kids paint

From page E3

Yannie Rumbaoa, University of the Philippines Fine Arts graduate Robert Wong, graphic designer and web animator Anton Chao, last year's grand prize winner Bernadette Umali, San Lorenzo Village board of governors member Nena Lim, and San Lorenzo Village manager Ana Villanueva.

Former winners of the contest include gifted child CJ da Silva. Da Silva was one of the contest's winners on the first year.

Sacred Heart School director Ma. Rowena Matti said the school organized the contest as a way for the students to apply what they have learned in their art subjects.

"We started it with just a simple drawing contest," Matti explained. "We made the winning entries our corporate Christmas card just last year. It worked well and many people appreciated it because they are more than just ordinary cards.

"There are very few art contests for children. Before, we tried to look for contests and we referred them (children). But since there were so few, we decided to come up with our own."

Amorsolo said the contest helps foster artistic talents at an early age.

"When you see these kids showing interest in the arts, it's a joy already. This is a good example of what can be done to promote children's art," Amorsolo said.

"Children nowadays can tell you if they think a painting is nice or not, if it is happy or sad. They can also distinguish one artist from another. As young as their age, they stop and look at paintings, which is not usual. Children like things that are colorful but to really stop and look at a painting, you really have to be trained," Amorsolo added.

Our man in Johannesburg

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

Fidel Sarmiento combines the creative arts and environmentalism in the world meeting on sustainable development in South Africa

GALLERY OF THE SEA
PHILIPPINES
RE OUR SEAS. THE GIFT OF OUR CREATOR FOR FUT RE OF A

SUMMIT executive director Dr. Viktor Sebek, South Africa Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Fidel Sarmiento in front of Sarmiento's prize-winning painting

THE SOUND and the fury of the World Summit on Sustainable Development may have subsided, but to Filipino artist Fidel Sarmiento, the weeklong South African sojourn remains vivid in his mind, spilling into his work as president of the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) and into the hues and images of his latest oeuvre.

Sarmiento was a member of the 11-person Philippine delegation led by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to the summit. He earned the slot by winning the top prize in the nationwide on-the-spot sail painting competition in Boracay and Bohol sponsored by the DENR. His trip was made possible by the support of such art patrons as Rep. Connie Dy and Lorie Cua.

Together with 14 hand-painted mural-size sails from the Philippines, which were flown to Johannesburg by Singapore Airlines, Sarmiento's work was prominently displayed at the conference venue, earning accolades from Dr. Viktor Sebek, executive director of the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (Acops), who described them as "celebrating the beauty of oceans and the coastal environment while others also highlight the threats."

Sebek particularly lauded the Filipino artists whose paintings "tell us how oceans and coasts are degraded, while others celebrate the beauty we often forget about."

"And I think," he added, "it's a very, very important psychological reminder of the importance of protecting the oceans and coasts."

For Sarmiento, the summit was a rare opportunity for artists to do their share in addressing vital environmental issues such as ocean and coastal degradation, which, Alvarez said, had been addressed in Asia even before it became a worldwide concern.

An Asian regional cooperation conference, similar to the African process, had been held in Manila in 1996, when Alvarez was still a senator. In fact, he said successful pilot projects on integrated coastal-resources management have been implemented in the country since the 1980s.

Mabudafhasi, South Africa's deputy minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said the "beautiful paintings" from the Philippines are a "good example of South-South cooperation." Everyone else, including Prince Rainier of Monaco (who sat beside Sarmiento), concurred when the paintings were finally unveiled.

In the course of the weeklong summit, Sarmiento had ample time to see the sights around Johannesburg with the other Filipino delegates. Being the capital of South Africa, the city had much to offer the visitors from the Philippines who marveled at the squeaky-clean surroundings, which had been conserved and preserved, and the people's openness to learn from the experiences of other nations.

The artist also took notice of the critics of the summit, who denounced it as an "instrument of globalization" and being stage-managed by the world's superpowers.

"There were as many groups as there were issues being raised," Sarmiento said. "And everybody with an issue to espouse or expose was out in the streets."

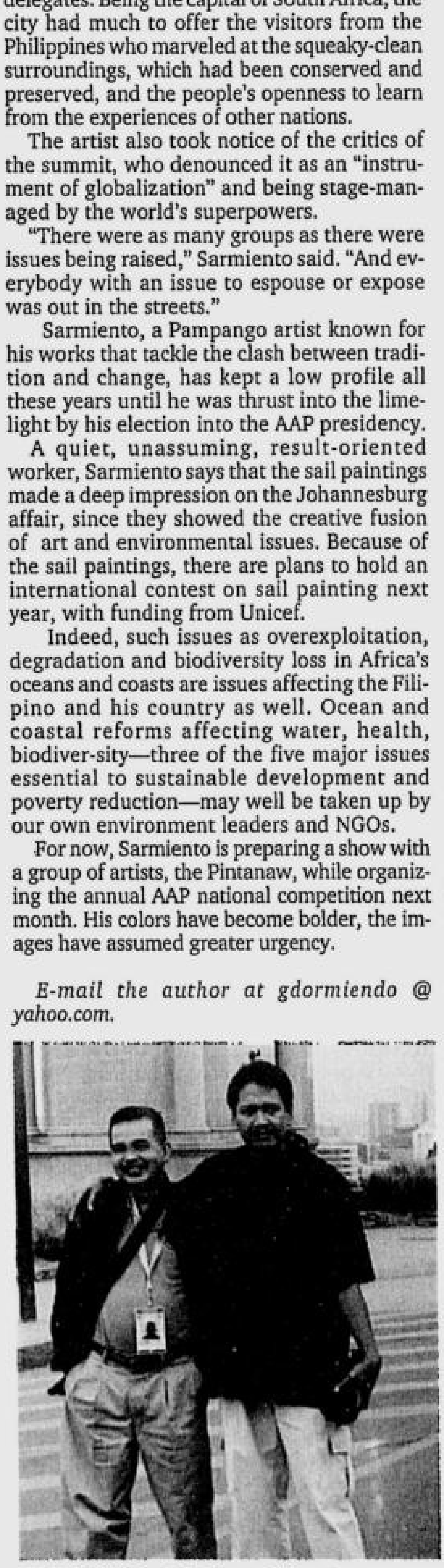
Sarmiento, a Pampango artist known for his works that tackle the clash between tradition and change, has kept a low profile all these years until he was thrust into the limelight by his election into the AAP presidency.

A quiet, unassuming, result-oriented worker, Sarmiento says that the sail paintings made a deep impression on the Johannesburg affair, since they showed the creative fusion of art and environmental issues. Because of the sail paintings, there are plans to hold an international contest on sail painting next year, with funding from Unicef.

Indeed, such issues as overexploitation, degradation and biodiversity loss in Africa's oceans and coasts are issues affecting the Filipino and his country as well. Ocean and coastal reforms affecting water, health, biodiver-sity—three of the five major issues essential to sustainable development and poverty reduction—may well be taken up by our own environment leaders and NGOs.

For now, Sarmiento is preparing a show with a group of artists, the Pintanaw, while organizing the annual AAP national competition next month. His colors have become bolder, the images have assumed greater urgency.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo @ yahoo.com.



SARMIENTO with Efren Villaseñor, president of the Coconut Farmers of the Philippines, in Trattoria

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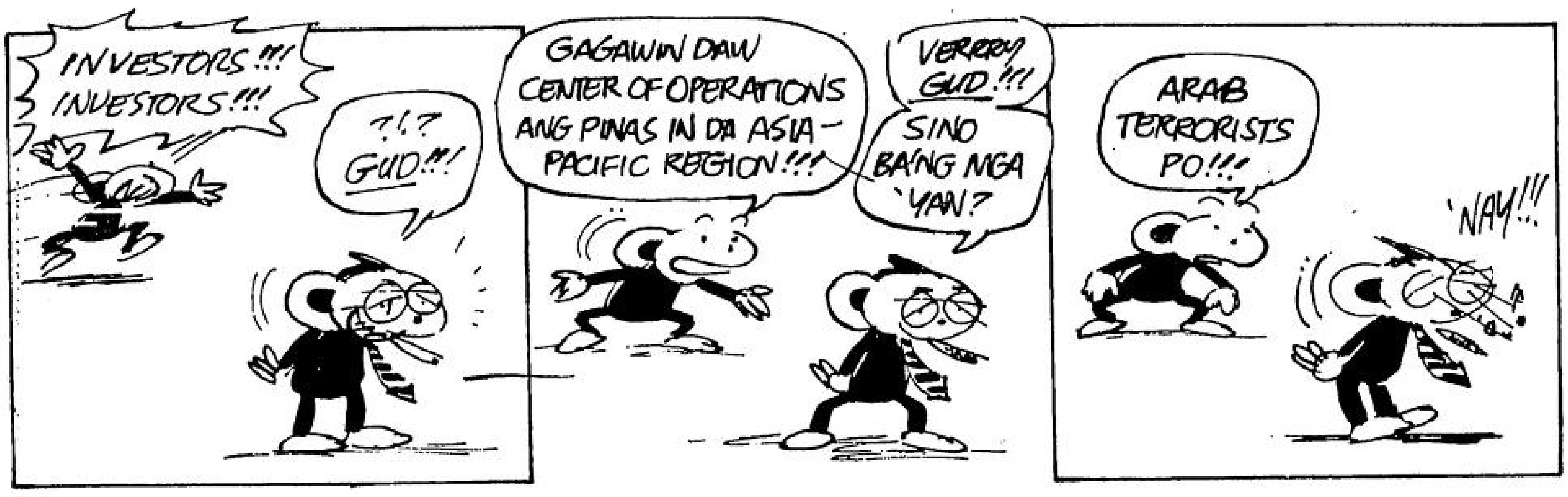
Embraced by the light—and by Tisoy, Aling Otik and Ikabod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?!? GUD!!!
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VERRRY GUD!!!
SINO BA'NG MGA 'YAN?
ARAB TERRORISTS PO!!!
'NAY!!!

ETHNIC slur and all, this 1997 Ikabod cartoon by Marcelo prefigures Philippine terrorism woes in the new century.

Fro mpage E5

night of the great one's wake.

Marveling at the way life and death suddenly came to perfect balance without even trying—at precisely the mid cusp of harmonizing Libra and death-and-rebirth Scorpio—we were also being practical.

Malabon, the next stop, was terra incognita to old Ermita-Malate denizens. Only one carried a map, with one commandeered vehicle to bring our collective creeping to Nonoy's hometown, past midnight, in the first shell shock.

Heart of darkness

The confusions of Metro Manila's landscape—long heritage of cluelessness on what past glories have to do with present needs—took over as we left the straight line and pungent aroma of North Bay Boulevard. Now we twisted and turned into long avenues without breaks in their islands, up and down bridges looking eerily alike in contiguous Caloocan and Navotas, Nonoy's favorite homeward route.

In short, despite the map, we alternated between being somewhat lost and very lost, begging for clues from pedestrians and tricycle drivers on the right thread out of an asphalt labyrinth under a full moon. Our first informants tolerated insistence on clear landmarks attached to street names on a map.

The next ones were less patient, "*Basta dumerecho kayo d'yan, at pag-ahon sa tulay, makakita kayo ng* vulcanizing. *Kumaliwa kayo doon.* Malabon *na 'yon.*" A meek follow-up question on whether the "vulcanizing" had a sign was dismissed with a smirk and a large circle traced in the air, "*Basta may goma.* Vulcanizing *'yon.*"

So we came to a *tulay*, but before sighting any *goma*, another *tulay* emerged in the dark, fanning confusion, until our driver said, "*Ayun, goma!*" It was a lone tire flat on the road beside a car, with no sign of a vulcanizing shop. Mercifully, the car owner paid us a mind. "*Saan po ba ang papuntang* Malabon?" "*Ayun, lumiko kayo doon at dumeretso.*"

Indeed, just down yonder was the left turn that finally led to the narrower streets of Ma-labong, 400-year-old settlement named after the bamboo shoots once thick around its riverine *sitios*.

The *municipio* modestly beckoned down the street, but names on our map and 3D reality had not quite synched when we discovered one-way and no-entry signs that had us detouring in mild despair. Suddenly our driver observed, "*Ito na nga po ang* Gen. Luna."

Next, after a daylong flurry of tearful text messages, Floresco funeral parlor materialized accidentally from a detour.

We had found Nonoy in the best *komiks* tradition but, alas, the hide-and-seek was not over. It was too late to fetch flowers for a bare room, but we found ourselves in a Zen canvas—silver gray coffin at the center, closed on its occupant's orders.

His other order for immediate cremation had been nervously flouted by his son, at the advice of Nonoy's older brother, an artist buddy and a media chum on the importance of a wake.

Severino Santos-Marcelo, a famous man, was not to get away with his body returning to the earth quietly, not while childhood memory, art, laughter and vision live among us.

As this is written, his boyhood chums in Bgy. Concepcion have already had their way: Opening his coffin for a last look, closing it again according to his wishes, only to have it opened again by a new wave of friends—until Nonoy's no-nonsense older sister finally said, "*Buksan na nga 'yan,*" only to be closed again by his alarmed brother and son.

How close-open, like hide-and-seek, will turn out in the end must already be amusing a great humorist, now beyond pain.

Second-guessing his reasons for how he lived and died, played sleight of hand with truth and fantasy, bent and expanded his mind with drugs—to brilliant account but at severe cost to himself and his nearest and dearest—is one option. On the first evening of his exit, however, it seemed far more suited to the Zen canvas to see him alive, grinning shyly in his spitting-image of a son, promising to prevail.

The son also giggles

Dario not only speaks and pauses, giggles and nervously bites his forefinger exactly like his *tatay* but also paints, draws, cartoons and designs books like him, doing him one better as also a budding stained-glass artist. He had, in fact, come home from the US only to help his dad finish a major oeuvre—ably illustrated, minutely researched history of their ancestral Malabon.

Now four years in the making, few know that Nonoy had paused for an unaccustomed length of time from the pressures of daily deadlines, sacrificing income for the "luxury" of filling a teeming verbal-and-image canvas of a hometown born from Manila Bay and the Tullahan-Tenejeros Rivers.

This book is visited by Arab sailors, swept by the Shri Vijayan kingdom, Chinese traders, Bruneian toll operators, Limahong, cruel friars, Mexican convicts, the indigo and tobacco industries, Rizal, Isabelo de los Reyes and Epifanio de los Santos, the Musikong Bumbong, the first *tranvia* tracks, Thomasites, fishpond magnates, Rufina Patis and so on down the centuries—all handpicked and filtered by the sensibility of a modern Filipino artist, patriot, historian whose celebrated irreverence has always been sauce to his substance.

Today, with so much forgotten, the bay's every tidal rise on reclaimed swampland and filled-up fishponds brings floods that resurrect Nonoy's own name for Malabon—"Mala-Venice." One climatologist's conclusion—that it would be cheaper to relocate the whole town rather than keep shoring it up against Nature—casts significant light on a native son's celebration of the past that led to this present.

The book, a plea to consider national history whole in its microcosm—once and for all, before it's too late—is also Nonoy Marcelo's final *obra maestra*, realized in self-immolation and the howling pain of the end. That it should see the light of day—beyond the abortion of the first publication date with demands on the artist for an appended chapter singing the praises of unripe local politicians—must be said.

That his unexpected hospital and internment bills—after that last great heave for the sake of the whole—must also be settled with the help of signatures other than his own, should be brought home as well. Many have fed and drunk from the sustenance of a truly generous mind and soul, his money always put where his laughing mouth was. We owe him.

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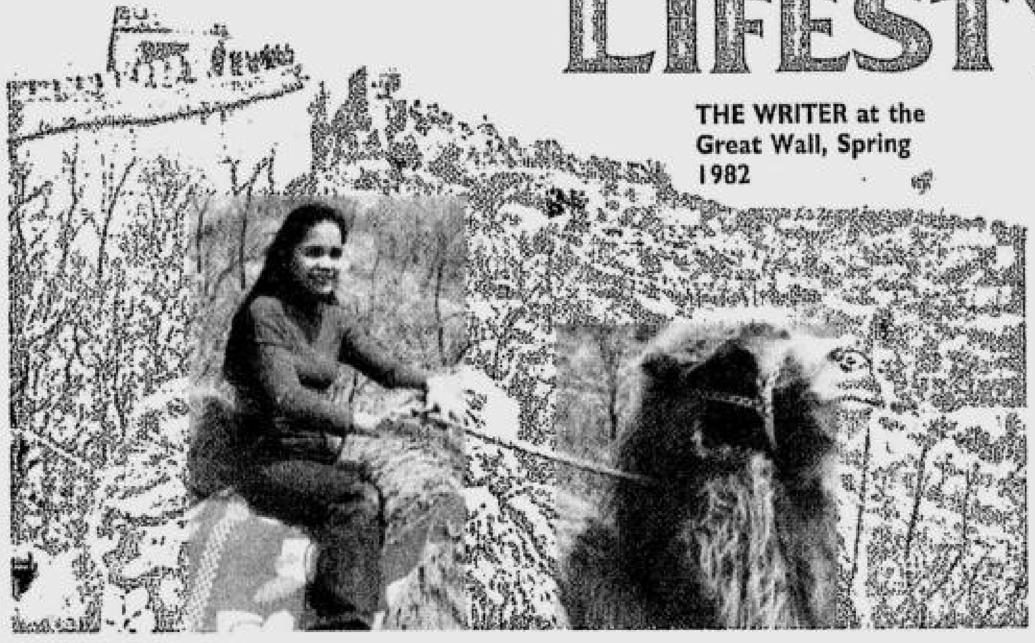
LIFESTYLE

Books



THE WRITER at the Great Wall, Spring 1982

The author makes a sentimental visit to China where she and her family lived during the dramatic transition in Philippine-Chinese relations

China: Past and fast forward

BANAUE Miclat at the Great Wall, June 2002

STORY ON PAGE F2

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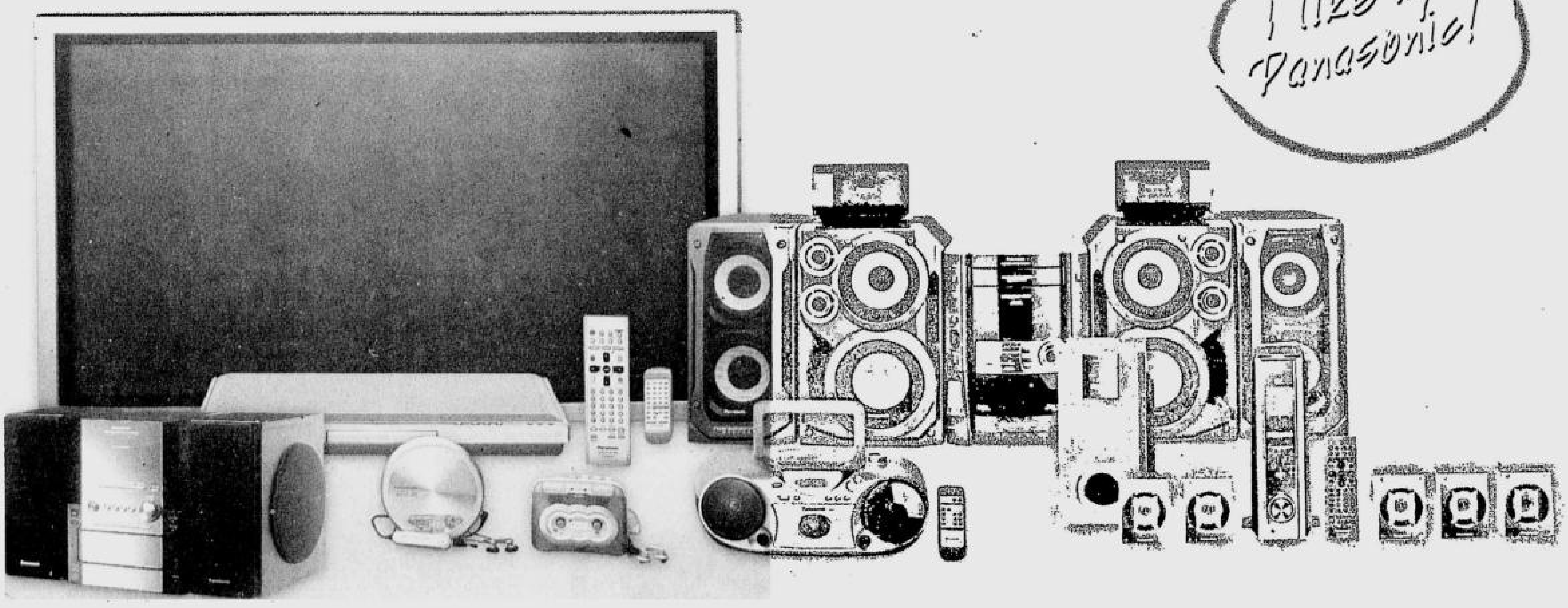
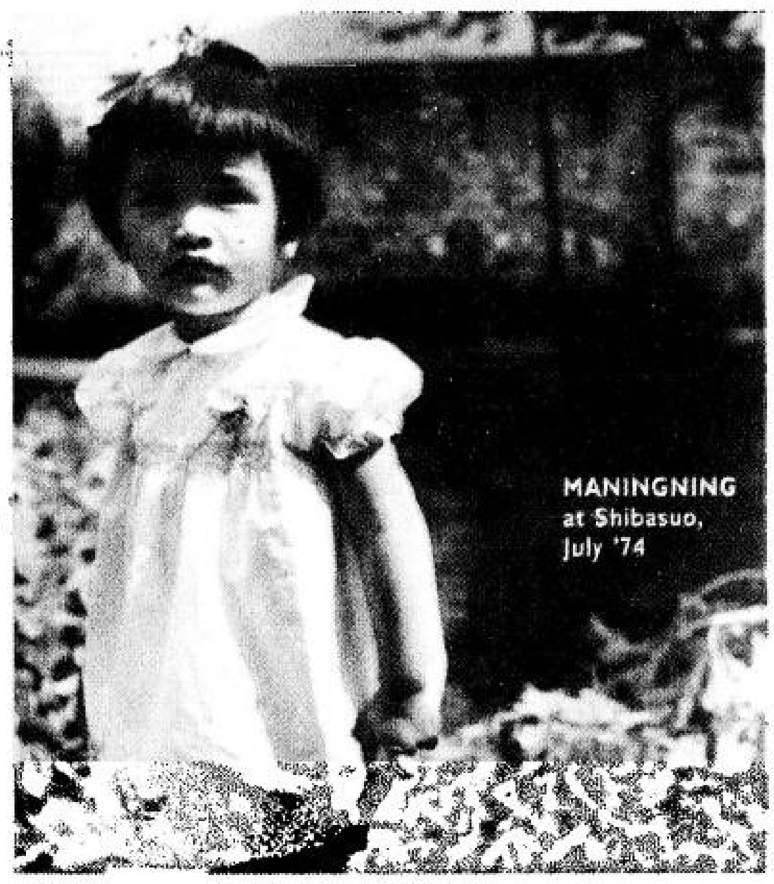


China: Past and fast forward



MANINGNING at Shibasuo, July '74

MARIO, Alma and Banaue at Shibasuo, June 2002

By Alma Cruz Miclat
Contributor

MY two daughters, Maningning and Banaue, were born in Beijing seven years apart. It was there where they learned their first words, both in Mandarin and Filipino. The family left the Chinese capital 16 years ago to come back home to the Philippines following Edsa I. In June this year, we made a sentimental trip to China. It was a confirmation that this country, where a fifth of humankind lives, still holds a special place in my heart. For it was here that my husband, Mario, and I first built a home from 1971 to 1986.

Chinese culture and civilization were ingrained in the young mind of Maningning, our eldest. Gentle and refined in Mandarin sensibilities, she would eventually become a visual artist both adept at Chinese traditional and Western abstract painting and a sensitive poet and writer in three languages—English, Filipino and Chinese. Her departure from us and from this world two years back was a page out of an ancient Chinese tale.

Our youngest, Banaue, was uprooted from China when she was only 7. Upon immersion in Philippine society, her perfect Peking enunciation gave way to English and Filipino intonations. She would now make full advantage of her proper diction in the last two languages acting, singing and directing on stage and television. She joined Mario and me in this trip back to Zhongguo, the Middle Kingdom.

Shanghai sojourn

The PAL flight from Manila took us directly to Shanghai, China's business and financial capital. The third Philippine consulate in China has just been set up there. At the time we were in Shanghai, Asian Development Bank had just finished a regional conference. "Les Miserables" from West End was accepting early bookings to the ultramodern Shanghai Cultural Center. An international film festival and the Ninth Shanghai TV Festival were ongoing at Shanghai International Convention Center. We could not find the Philippine booth for either the film or TV festival, although our flag was hanging in the lobby. The five-star Huating Hotel, where we stayed at the heart of the city's booming Xujiahui commercial center, was swarming with actors, actresses, directors and filmmakers. A Filipino band performed at the lobby that night. From our hotel room, we had a magnificent view of the new and old Shanghai gymnasiums adjacent to an interchange, skyway and an elevated LRT. It was a pleasure to note that a lane in the wide streets and avenues was still reserved for the still ubiquitous bicycles, many of which are already motorized.

Shanghai charm is most evident in the Bund, which has preserved the old colonial buildings in the former international concession. Buildings like those of the German Club, Palace Hotel, and Russo-Asian Bank are now newly painted and well lighted. Even the century-old Tudor-style Customs Building, with its familiar 110-ft-high clock tower, is resplendent in its new-look. Dubbed as the Paris of the East in the early part of the last century, the well-lighted Bund is again a sight to behold at night, especially from the long, elevated walkway at the bank of the famed Huangpu River. Fronting the Bund is the Pudong District, the "Manhattan of China," with its towering and massive government, cultural, business and financial structures. The sight of the Bund and Pudong across the river takes on a miniature-like enchantment from a rooftop restaurant which served the best of Shanghai cuisine. This culinary delight will be repeated in all banquets given by the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), which hosted us not only in Shanghai but also in Beijing and Shenzhen.

Beijing rendezvous

Beijing still impressed me in this visit as the center of imperial China, despite the prodigious office, hotel and financial buildings lining the avenues on our way from the airport to the historic Beijing Hotel.

Chang'an Avenue struck me as majestically wide when I first saw it in 1971. Just about 10 or so landmarks were strategically placed on both of its sides then. Westward from Beijing Hotel, one passed by the History Museum and the Great Hall of the People facing Tiananmen, the Gate to the old imperial Palace. A high vermillion wall connected to Zhongnanhai, China's Malacañang. Rows of walled gray courtyards were cut by the Telecom Building, the Nationalities Hotel and Museum, the Russian-style Radio Peking Building and the Trade Union Building. Weeping willows cross part of the imperial canal as one proceeded further west to the Museum of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This time, they seemed dwarfed by new grandiose buildings, many of which sporting names of multinational companies. At Hilton Hotel's Ming Ballroom, we joined Beijing's Filipino community in celebrating with Chinese and foreign guests the 104th anniversary of Philippine independence organized by Ambassador and Ms Josue L. Villa on the night of June 12.

Earlier in the day, Banaue and I toured the Great Wall. Mario, meanwhile, went with his co-UP professors, Aileen Baviera and Natalia Morales, to Peking University in conference with their Chinese counterparts. I had visited the Great Wall countless of times while I was a resident of Beijing. So did Banaue while she was but a tot. But like so many things that had changed in China, this trip to the Great Wall was a pleasant surprise. Before, going to the Great Wall at Badaling was a tedious one-day trip passing through long and winding mountain roads. This time, our trip through an expressway was fast and light. Leaving the hotel at 8:30 a.m., we were back by noontime.

CHINA p F3

Me and My Nokia confessions of a certified mobile user

Celebrity photographer's must for traveling: NOKIA 6310i

NOKIA
NOKIA

The first thing that grabs anyone's attention upon setting foot inside renowned photographer Raymund Isaac's Portfolio studio is the collage of pictures that adorn his walls and ceiling. The pictures depict the country's most popular faces in the entertainment industry, all beautifully made up and staring straight into Raymund's lenses.

His name is as familiar as his subjects-- an acknowledged master in the photography world where he has been clicking away for the past 15 years. Today, Raymund is at the top of his game, with a work calendar constantly fully booked, and an erratic schedule that makes it quite a challenge to pin him down for shoots. Indeed, the waiting list of subjects eager to be photographed by Raymund is as varied as it is long.

"I feel flattered that they'd rather wait for me to have an opening rather than go to someone else. But I usually feel quite embarrassed about it. I don't like people having to wait for me," Raymund said. Because of his hectic workload, he's looking forward to November, when he goes abroad for a vacation and to look for ideas for his next projects.

A must-have travel accessory for Raymund for his overseas travels is his Nokia 6310i. "I bought this because it is tri-band," he said. "I leave the country a minimum of four times a year for work and it's important for me to be able to stay in touch with friends, family and clients where I go." The Nokia 6310i's tri-band receiver is for global roaming support, and also includes a preloaded world clock and currency converter.

Raymund has brought his trusty Nokia 6310i to Bangkok, Vancouver, Los Angeles, New York, parts of Europe and around Asia. He recounts one funny experience with his phone: "We were in a remote island in Thailand, and I was the only one with a phone that was working. So everyone who was with me had to use my phone to call the Philippines."

Another thing he likes about his phone is that "it's so light." At 103 grams, the Nokia 6310i is indeed power-packed with features yet is lightweight enough for the frequent traveler to carry around.

People person

Back in his studio, Raymund confesses that he loves people for subjects. "I've never questioned my interest in people," he said. "It's what's kept me going through all these years because I've met a lot of different people in this profession. You become friends with your subject. Actually, that's the more exciting part of the photography, more than the shooting of the picture. You make a connection."

Raymund intimates that he even has a "confessional box" in his studio where the stars who just want to converse with him about their private life can go to. Most are comfortable confiding in him, perhaps because Raymund was never inclined in spilling their secrets to the public. "It's not worth it, they've become my friends," he said.

His phone book is a virtual list of who's who in the business-- from showbiz personalities, ad agencies, corporate entities to private individuals who are regulars in Raymund's roster of clients. To keep in touch, Raymund taps into his Nokia 6310i's PDA-like features: a phone book of 500 names with multiple numbers and text fields, and a memory big enough for 150 text or 50 picture messages.

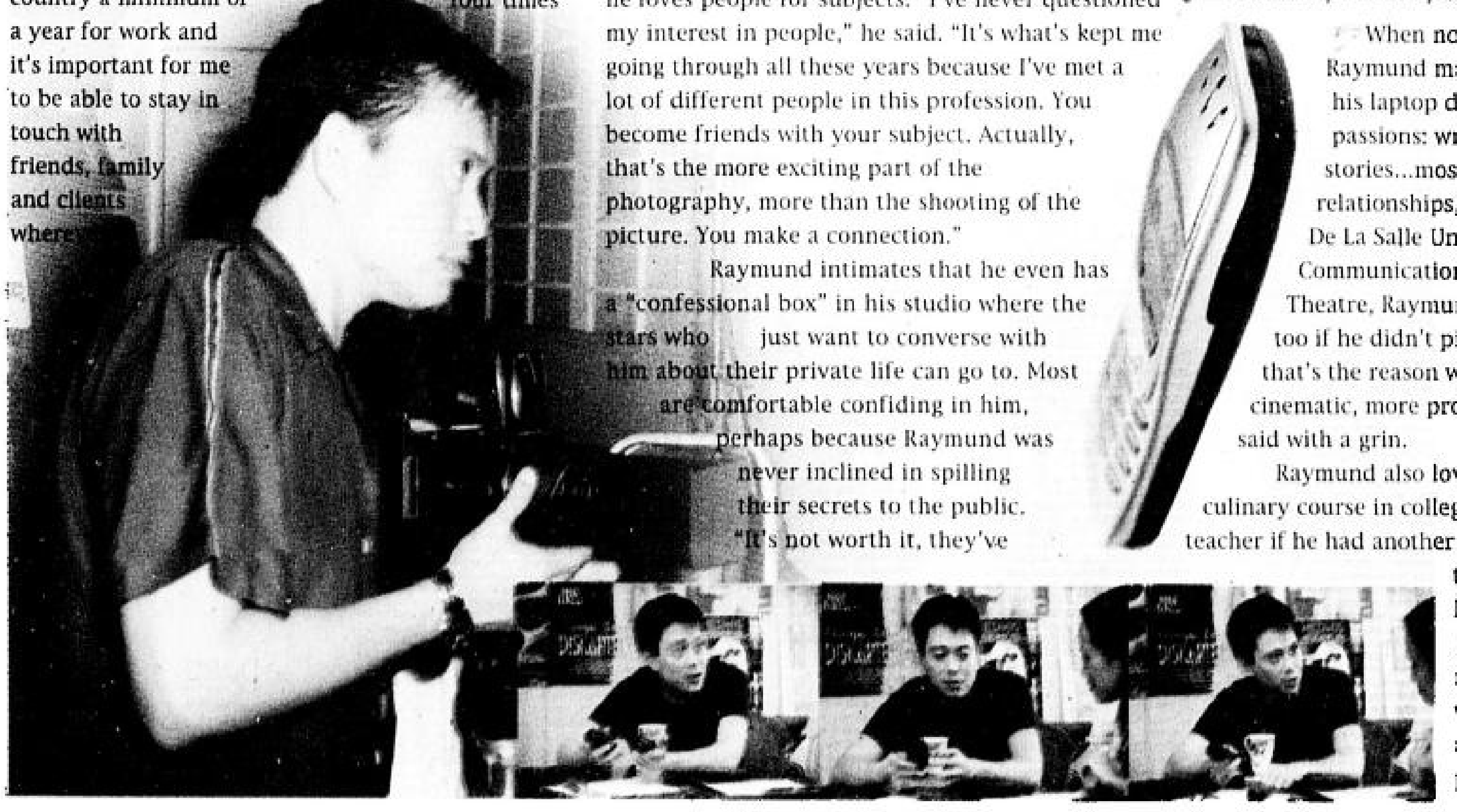
"It's my office in my pocket," Raymund said about his Nokia 6310i. It has Notes, a To Do List and a Calendar. "My skeds are in there," he added. He even personalizes his phone by putting stickers of cartoon characters. "I'm a kid. I got the Power Puff girls. Can you believe even my secretary's name is Blossom?," he laughed.

Writer, actor, chef, teacher

When not holding a camera, Raymund may be found hunched over his laptop doing one of his many passions: writing. "I write prose, short stories...mostly about love and relationships," he said. A graduate of the De La Salle University with a degree in Communication Arts, Major in Film and Theatre, Raymund would have been on stage too if he didn't pick up photography. "I think that's the reason why my photography is more cinematic, more production design level," he said with a grin.

Raymund also loves to cook (he almost took a culinary course in college) and would have been a teacher if he had another career ("I love kids and teaching...photography was last on the list").

And with that, Raymund resumes what he does best: working behind the camera and making beautiful pictures with just one click.



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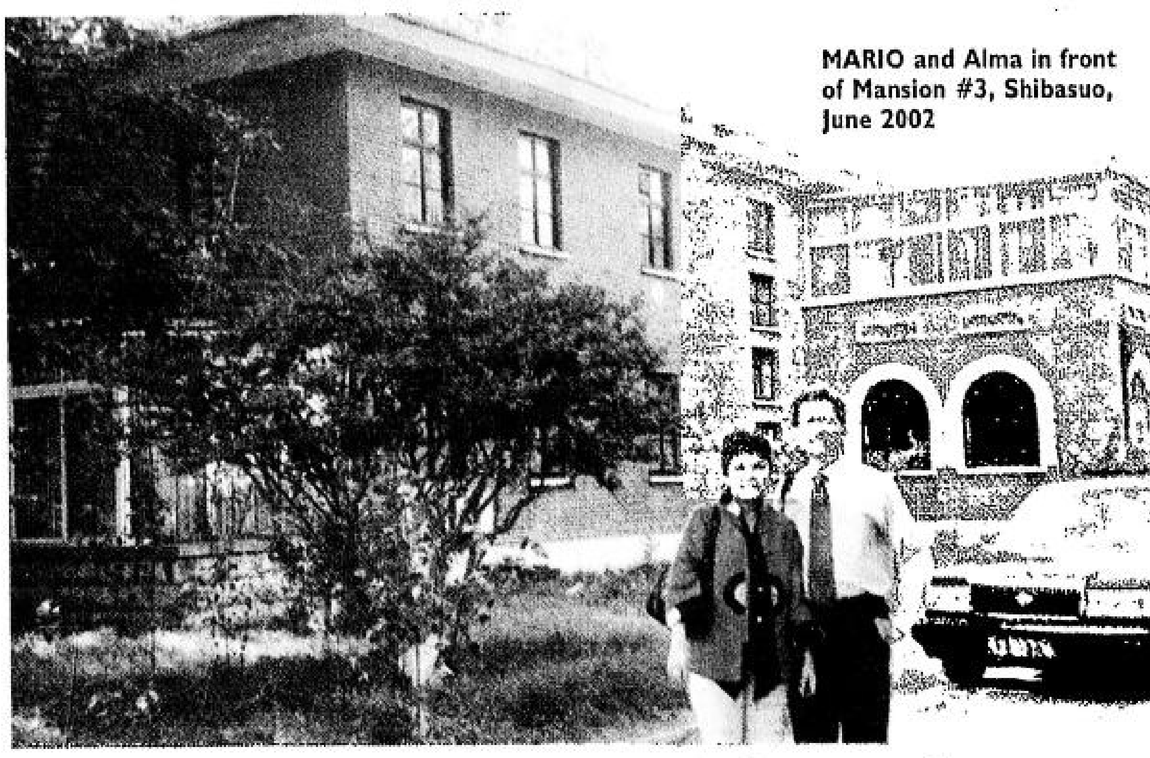

MARIO and Alma in front of Mansion #3, Shibasuo, June 2002

China: Past and fast forward

From page F2

The afternoon side trip before the Philippine Independence Day dinner was very memorable, if emotional. It was arranged just for Mario, Banaue and myself by CAIFC director Zhao Lei, who was with us throughout our three-city tour.

Homecoming

In my article "Peking Apple" in the book "The Writers' Wives" (edited by Narita M. Gonzales, Anvil Press, 2000), I wrote about our life in a compound in the Western suburbs of Beijing named Shibasuo (Eighteen Mansions) from 1971 to 1979. It was an exclusive, tightly guarded compound where our Maningning was born and raised. Of the 18 mansions, only four are left, the rest are giving way to the continuing construction boom. The commune farms around the compound are now covered by tall apartment buildings.

Luckily, our former residence, Mansion No. 3, was still intact, but with some renovation done by the renting occupant, the Sino-Giant Technology Co. Ltd. Both terraces on the first and second floors have been turned into covered, air-conditioned offices full of computers. Computer tables also fill the former bathroom of our master bedroom, which used to have a connecting door to Maningning's bedroom. The company's deputy director, Tian Minghua, graciously showed us around, and would heartily smile as Mario opened a door or another to our receiving room, library, pingpong room, nursery, or kitchen. "Oh, yes," she would remark, "we had to demolish the wok and oven island here," or "get rid of the pingpong table there." She commented, "I did hear that this building used to be occupied by Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk, but never knew that friends from the Philippines also lived here. You must miss this place."

Despite the changes, Mario and I were very excited to see the same old winter radiators, the same marble *pasamano*, the same windows and cabinets, nay with new coats of paint and more colorful curtains.

I was all in tears as Banaue took our picture in the bedroom. Memories overtook me. We were asleep in this room when a very strong earthquake, perhaps 7.1, perhaps 8.2 in the Richter scale, occurred on July 28, 1976. After the first few seconds of tremendous tremors, which were shaking everything inside the room, including our heavy iron bed, I woke the heavy sleeper Mario. In pitch dark, punctuated only by what seemed to be multi-colored lightning, but emanating from the ground, I grabbed Maningning from her bed, and asked Mario to crawl down the bed. My half-awake husband thought that I was getting romantic but found it queer that I wanted to do it under the bed.

Hundreds of thousands died in that earthquake which would go down in world history as one of the most devastating. The whole of Tangshan, 125 km east of Beijing, was leveled down. By early morning, our PLA guards asked us to transfer to a temporary dwelling outside. We were joined by a comrade from Kalimantan Utara who lived next door. Alas, it happened during the tail-end of the so-called Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and, save for a coterie of service personnel—building caretakers, drivers, cooks, barbers and Maningning's *amah*—only the three of us, plus our 4-year-old daughter, occupied this compound for "foreign comrades." We had to live in a tent for days until it was declared that it was safe to go back inside the house.

More tears fell from my eyes when I realized that Maningning was no longer with us to reminisce and feel nostalgic about that phase of our lives. It was primarily because of her and our new baby, Banaue, that we left the exclusive Eighteen Mansions. We wanted them to lead more normal lives in a more open environment. We transferred to Zhuanjialou, the Foreign Experts' Building, a glamorized ghetto for foreigners working at Radio Peking and where we used to take the de rigueur noontime naps (or siesta for us).

As China had officially ended the turbulent Cultural Revolution following the death of Chairman Mao Zedong, the country was going through political, economic and cultural reforms. It had started to open up and our desire for a more normal life was somewhat answered, if still in the manner of the elite. We attended our first Beethoven concert, Symphony No. 5, when the China Philharmonic Orchestra first performed it. We would later see Western operas in the Chinese language like "La Traviata" and "Madame Butterfly." Old Vic Theater would perform "Hamlet" and Arthur Miller would direct "Death of a Salesman." Luciano Pavarotti and Wham would tantalize the Chinese in the same manner that Herbert von Karajan and Seiji Ozawa with his Boston Symphony Orchestra would charm the culture-hungry Beijingers.

From the Shibasuo compound, Mr. Zhao drove us to Zhuanjialou, the Foreign Experts' Building at Nan Li Shi Street, Fuxingmen district. The old Radio Peking Building fronting it now only houses the local broadcasting station. Foreign broadcasts of Radio Peking, now calling itself China Radio International (CRI), emanate from a new and bigger building at suburban Babaoshan, the Hill of Eight Treasures, an ancient burial ground.

The five-story Zhuanjialou has not changed either. Once an imposing building, it now appeared small in comparison to high-rise apartments all around it. It is occupying prime land and modern economics dictates that it should give way to a high-rise. It was a stroke of luck that we visited Zhuanjialou before the planned demolition by the end of the month. The PLA guard who used to man the gate is gone and in his place is a girl who greeted us excitedly.

"Oh, isn't this Xiao Weiwei?" she exclaimed upon seeing Banaue. Sixteen years have passed and this girl somehow still remembers Banaue, and calls her with the endearing modifier "Xiao (Little)"!

Just like our old mansion, our Zhuanjialou flat has been turned into an office. Honest Company is a film distributor. We were warmly received by the manager of the company. She expressed her gratitude to us when she learned that we helped in rebuilding China years ago.

The flat was exactly the same as it was. Our master bedroom, Maningning and Banaue's room, the receiving room, the little kitchen and our bathroom (complete with the stains we left 16 years ago) are still intact. I was transported back to the past and couldn't help but cry again and again. Pointing at the radiator at the sala, Banaue exclaimed with tears in her eyes, "*dito ako unang napaso*." Little by little, our daughter would recall and utter more and more Chinese phrases she used when she was small.

It was too much to handle in one day. Yet, we had to dress up for the Philippine embassy reception at Hilton Hotel. From there, we went to CNN's Jimmy and Anna Florcruz's apartment. NBC's Eric Baculinao and wife Liyan excused themselves after the embassy dinner. But ABC's Chito Sta.

CHINA p F4

MARIO and Alma in front of Mansion #3, Shibasuo, January 1973

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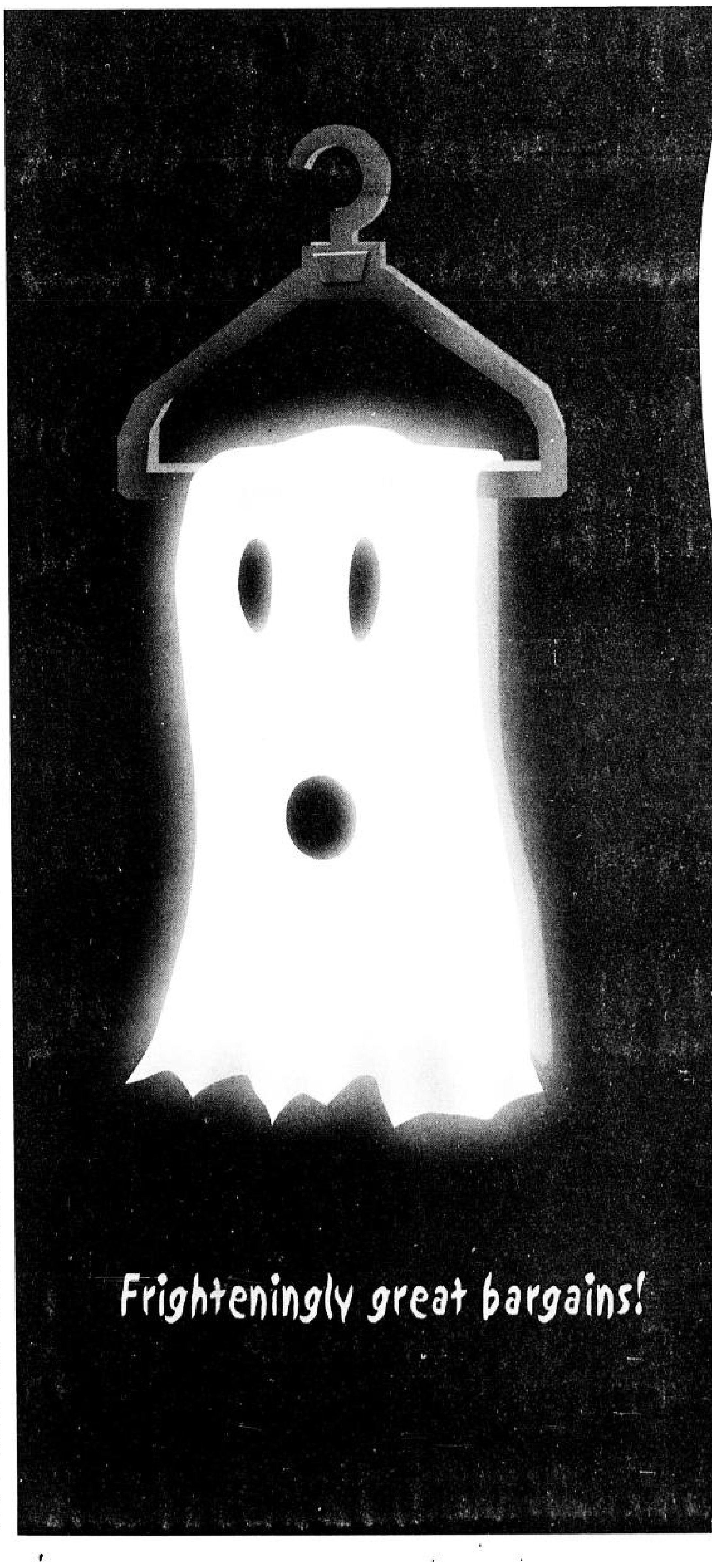

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China: Past and fast forward

From page F3

Romana joined us for a nightcap and tête-à-tête.

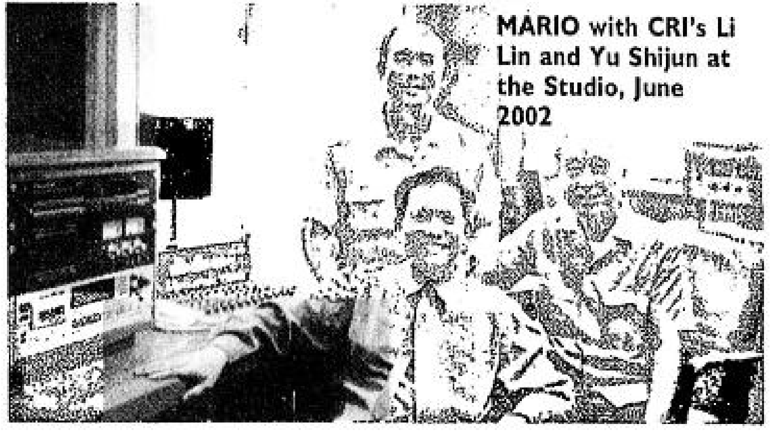
Radyo Peking revisited

The following day, we visited the new building of China Radio International. Its Filipino Section has a nightly 30-minute broadcast beamed to the Philippines, the only overseas broadcast in Filipino outside our country. Our Chinese colleagues, who worked with us in our 15 years with Radio Peking and who are now mostly retired came in full force to meet us. Yu Shijun, whom we still fondly call Lito (in memory of Mario's *desaparecido* friend, Lito Alvarez, who looked like him) is now its head. He learned Filipino at the Radio Peking Institute in the early 1960s and was later sent to further his studies at UP Diliman in the early '80s as part of the RP-China cultural exchange program. He will be retiring soon. Retirees all, but still strong and lively, are Li Lin and wife Wu Suyi, Cai Qin, Qiu Ailian, Zhao Yilan, Tian Zemian, and Lao Liu and his wife. Liu Dazhao, our old teacher in Chinese language and culture and former head of the Foreign Experts' Bureau, hosted a banquet for us. As we repeatedly offered toasts for our friendship that shall last forever, we were also toasting the friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Indeed we are old friends. We have shared weal and woe all through the stifling Cultural Revolution years when politics was put in command of everything, and the Chinese economy came to a stand still. We went through the devastating earthquake and the death of Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai in 1976, a Year of the Dragon when empires fall and rise. We saw the first steps toward clear-cut economic strategies and reforms instituted by Deng Xiaoping. "Now, you don't need to smuggle hard-boiled eggs from your Shibasuo pantry for us," somebody commented. We all laughed remembering survival tactics during the hard times.

Memories of our old and new Beijing we carried with us on our way to Shenzhen, then Hong Kong, and home to Manila. It was twilight time when we left Beijing. But the whole of Chang'an Boulevard was bright with light. Its glowing and cheerful buildings add pizzazz to the flower beds and gardens of a clean and tidy city. I remember politically correct Beijing nights as dark and gloomy 20 or 30 years back.

ALMA, sister-in-law Nora, Maningning and Banaue with Qiu Ailian and Lao Liu at Radio Peking's Studio, Summer '85

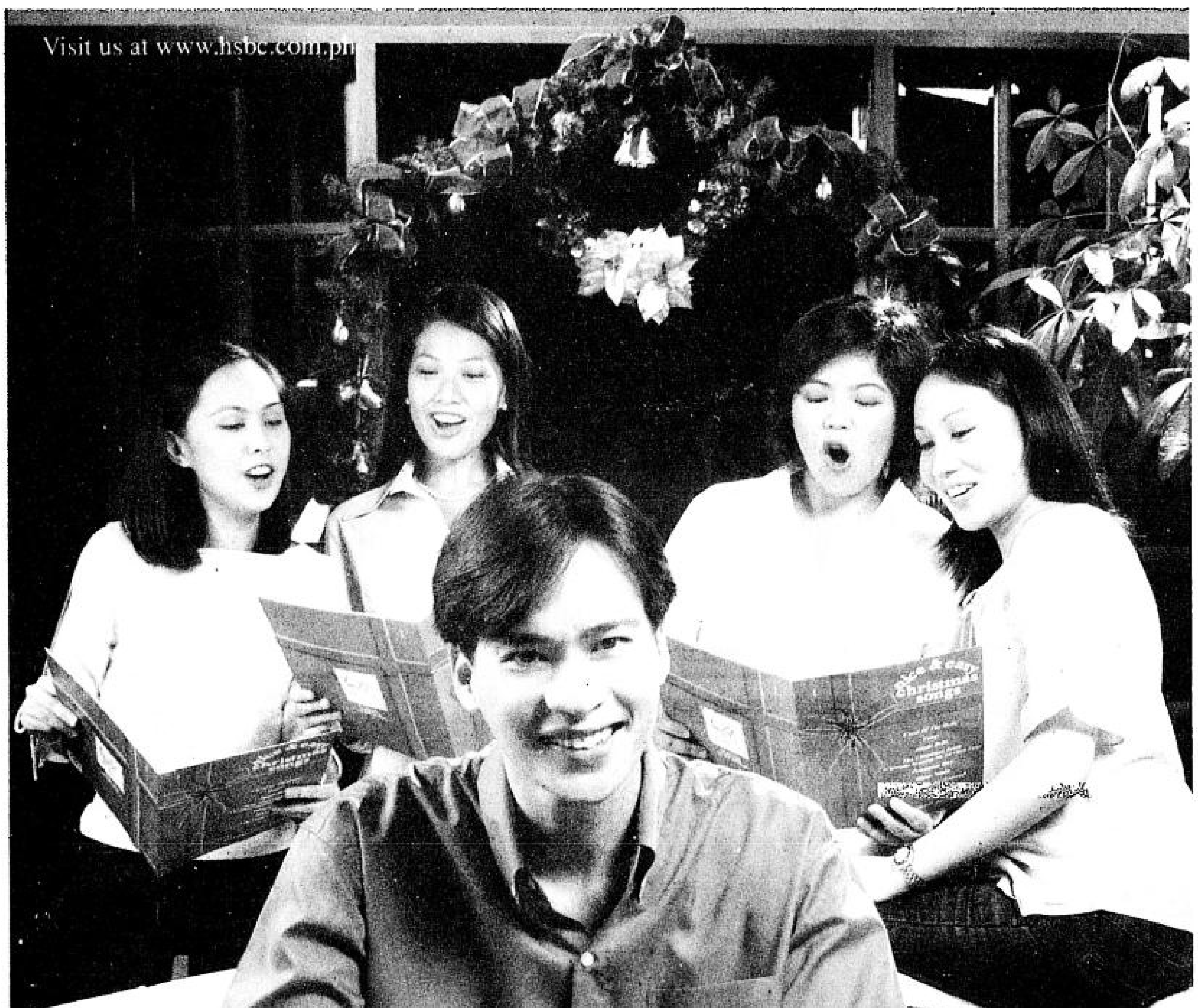


MARIO with CRI's Li Lin and Yu Shijun at the Studio, June 2002

Back in Manila, as we stepped out of Naia II, I felt I was thrown back to that Beijing of long, long ago.

The author is vice president for sales and marketing of Data Center Design Corp. and executive director of the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. She worked at the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television of China from 1971 to 1986.

The 2003 Maningning Miclat Award for Poetry is accepting entries until Dec. 29. Contest rules can be secured from MMAFI, c/o DCDC, 2/F Mile Long Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail alma_miclat @dcdc.com.ph; aliww@admu.com.ph; or kaisa@philonline.com. Winners will receive cash awards and trophy designed by Julie Lluch in a program on April 15, 2003.



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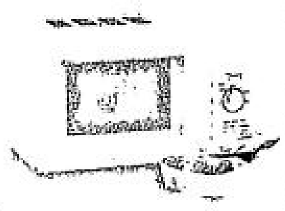

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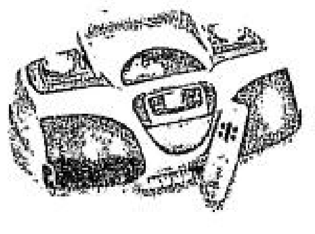

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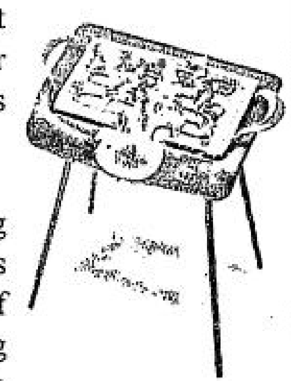

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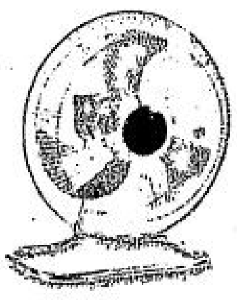

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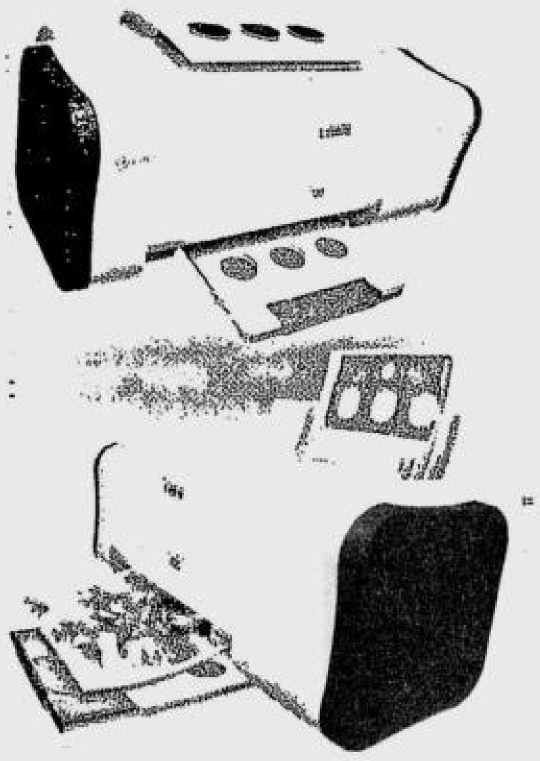

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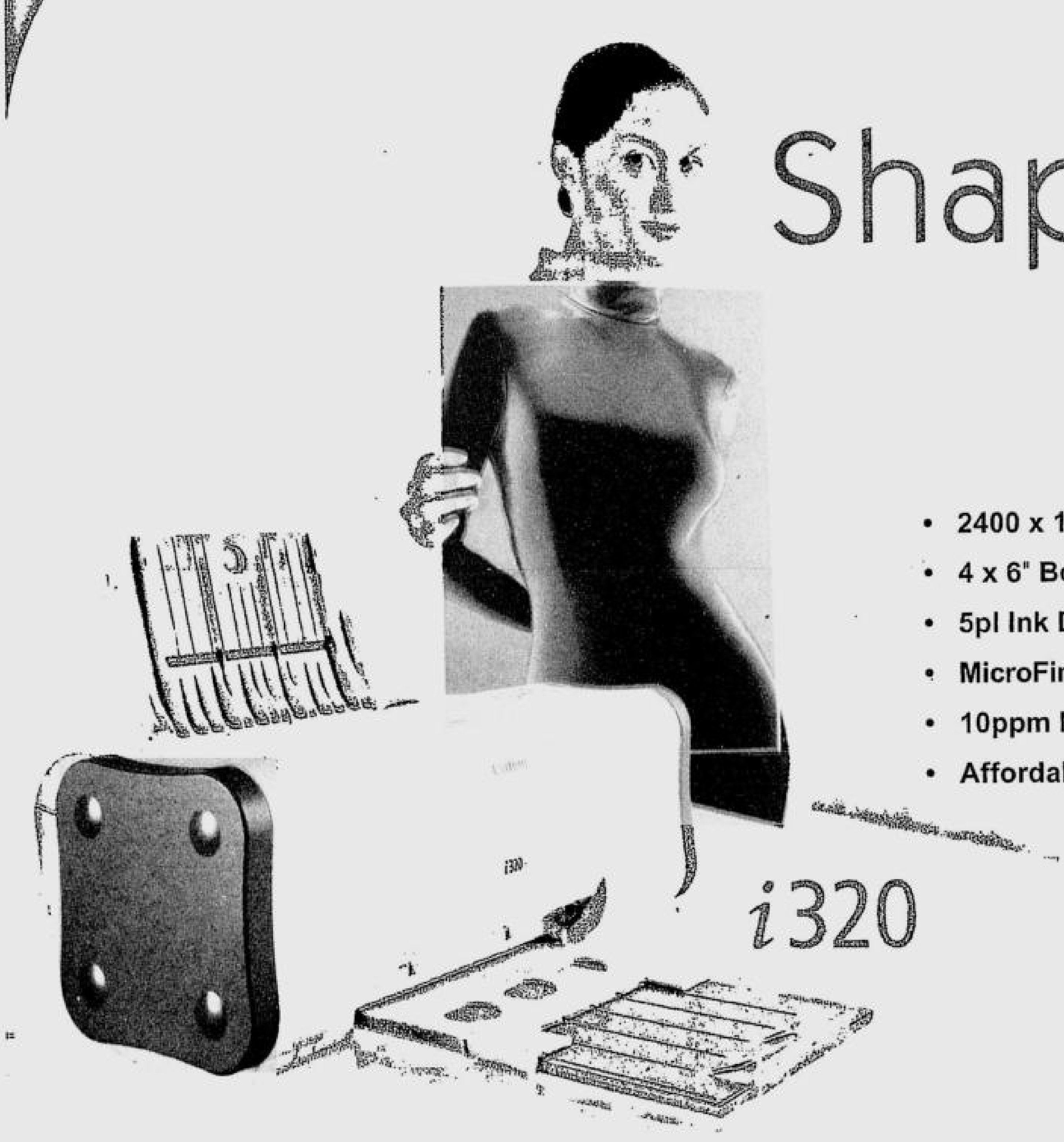
Canon

Shape up

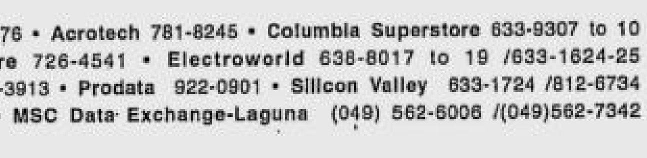


- 2400 x 1200 dpi
- 4 x 6" Borderless Print
- 5pl Ink Droplet
- MicroFine Droplet Technology
- 10ppm Mono/7ppm Colour
- Affordable Original Inks

Shape up your image. Shape up your future. Shape up your life.

The Canon XNU i320 Bubble Jet Printer is about to shape up your life! Its revolutionary design integrates graceful curves and a compact, cube-inspired form that shape up your desktop. A high-quality photo printer, XNU shapes up your image with ultra-precise MicroFine Droplet Technology and ultra-high 2400 x 1200dpi resolution. Easy-PhotoPrint - which supports the new international standard Exif Print (Exif 2.2) for digital camera - ensure exceptional accuracy and brilliant, lifelike photos. And a variety of exciting features and capabilities - such as high-speed borderless 4R printing and Vivid Photo Function - further expand your creative possibilities. XNU is the ultimate blend of form and function, an artistically advanced machine that is destined to shape up your future. Canon XNU - the time has come to shape up!

xnu
BUBBLE JET PRINTER



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- light
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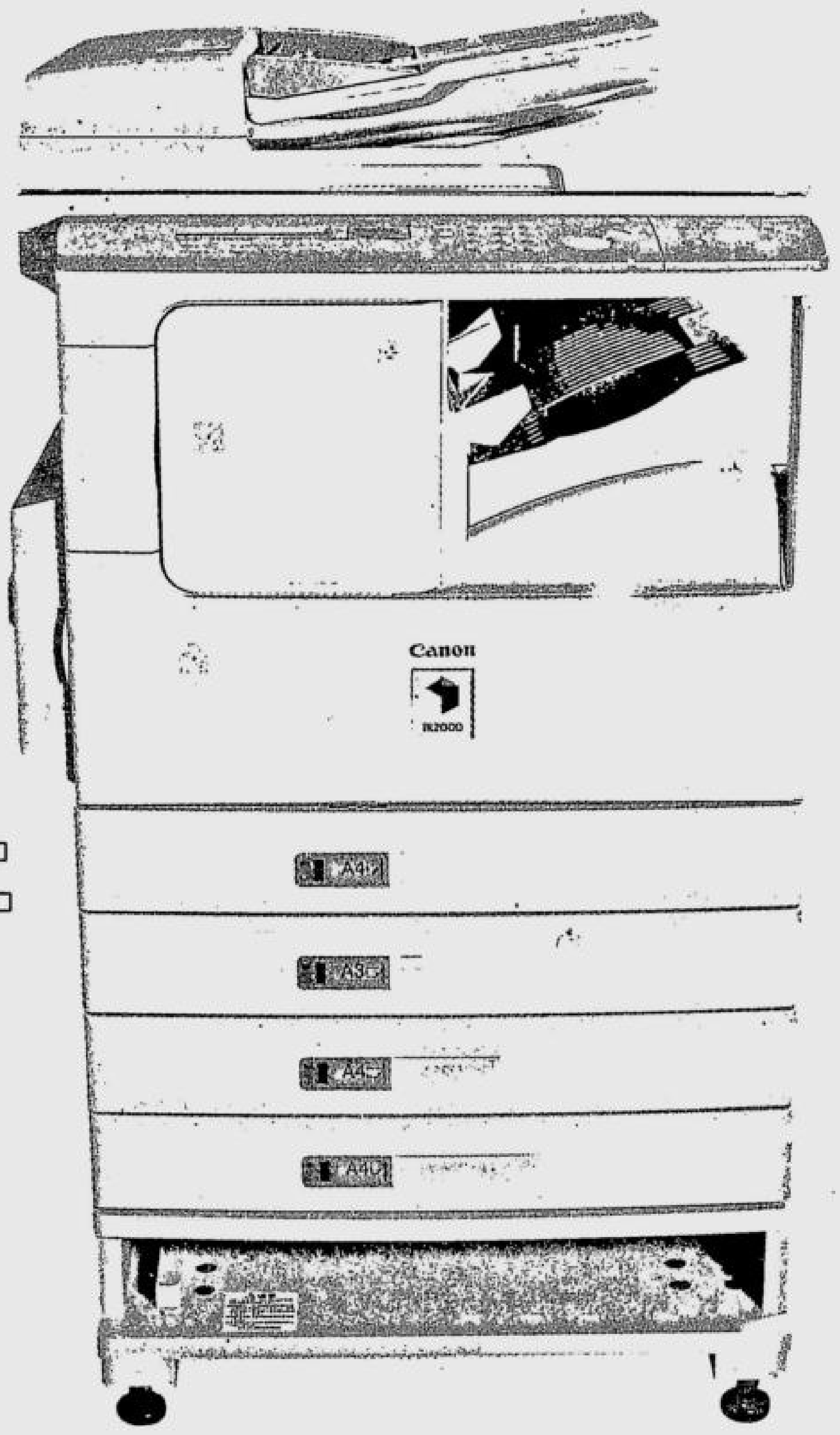

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Finally, a digital multifunction workgroup solution without the hassles of ordinary digital copiers. It's the new Canon imageRUNNER 1600/2000. With a powerful, fast 200MHz print processor, it dramatically reduces your waiting time when printing critical documents. Plus, the imageRUNNER 1600/2000 allows copy scanning to take place even while printing is in progress. What's more, now is the best time to acquire one. That's because you'll get Canon Premium Items worth P24,000 for the iR1600 and P32,000 for the iR2000 respectively. Plus, you'll get free 10,000 sheets of A4 size copy paper, a Gift Certificate worth P3,000 and an imageRUNNER jacket. So don't wait, ask your local Canon representative about the amazing imageRUNNER 1600/2000 and take the hassle-free route to office efficiency.

**Shown with optional accessories

Promo Period: September 2 - October 31, 2002

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3632 Series of 2002

Canon also introduced [illegible]

The Laser Shot LBP-1210 can print up to 2400 x 600 dpi in resolution with Canon's Automatic Image Refinement Technology. Designed to meet the needs of today's fast-paced SOHO or office users, this workhorse requires almost no warm-up time with the first printout achieved in less than 10 seconds.

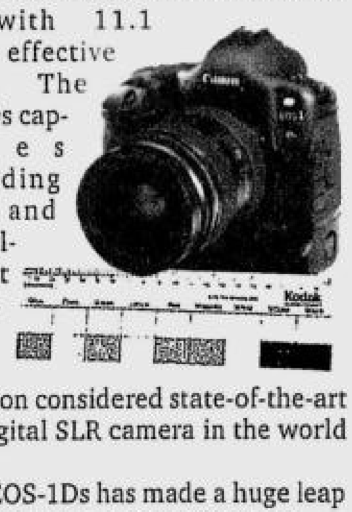
Installed with the revolutionary Canon Advanced Printing Technology (CAPT), users no longer need to invest in additional memory or upgrades for the printer. The LBP-1210 uses less memory and time to compress print data by tapping into the PC's processor and memory, increasing printer speed without compromising quality. Users can also set customer paper sizes, overlap bitmaps or tile up to nine pages on one sheet of paper.

The LBP-1210 printer is a 14 page-per-minute machine which features optional network capability for small work group printing through an optional print server. Other outstanding features include its barely audible operation and its USB and parallel port compatibility.

Canon's XNU i320 and LaserShot LBP-1210 printers are now available in the market. Visit any of Canon's authorized resellers nationwide and experience superior printing quality.

Canon introduces the world's first full frame professional digital camera

CANON announces the world's highest resolution professional digital camera, the EOS-1Ds, featuring the first ever full-frame 35mm CMOS sensor, with 11.1 million effective pixels. The EOS-1Ds captures astounding detail and color, almost doubling the resolution considered state-of-the-art for a digital SLR camera in the world today.



The EOS-1Ds has made a huge leap in resolution by means of the continuous development of the CMOS sensor. Canon's groundbreaking CMOS technologies deliver high resolution, low noise and low power consumption, allowing photography to make a quantum leap in terms of digital image quality.

The EOS-1Ds can capture images at approximately three frames per second for a 10-frame burst, even at the highest quality setting. It also has almost three times as many pixels as the super fast EOS-1D.

With its extremely high resolution, the EOS 1Ds has been designed to meet the needs of those professional photographers who need the ultimate in digital image quality. Therefore, it is expected to appeal to professionals active in a wide range of specialties including studio, commercial, reportage or fashion photography.

Canon

Canon unveils slimmest scanners; It sings while you wait

Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc. introduced two revolutionary scanners—LiDE 20 and LiDE 30—the slimmest available so far in the market. Canon's unique LiDE or Led Indirect Exposure technology achieves power and space-efficiency without compromising functionality and imaging quality. LiDE also encapsulates the best in Lifestyle Design to produce advanced scanners that are trend setting in both looks and performance.

The LiDE 20 and LiDE 30 series are the first in the market to be equipped with the patented Advanced Z-lid covers. With these unique covers, users could scan documents from thickly bound materials effortlessly. Even more remarkable, documents can also be scanned when the scanners are in an upright position.

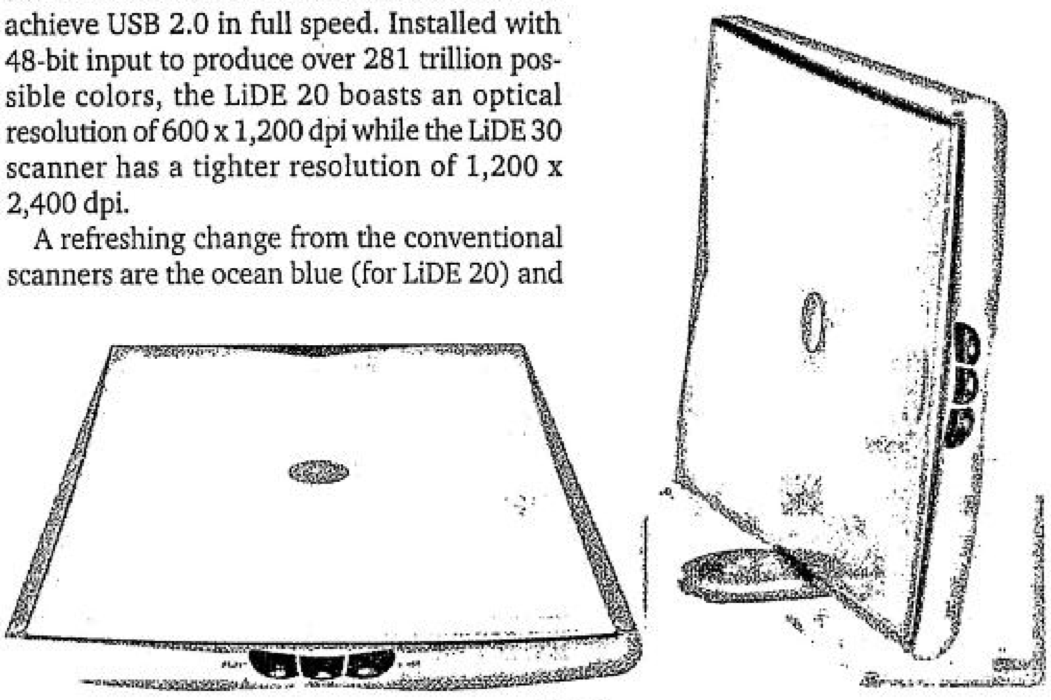
Canon's multi-photo and multi-crop mode also allows three pieces of 4R pictures to be scanned at 300 dpi in just a click of a button in less than two minutes. The LiDE 20 and LiDE 30 are also equipped with three one-touch buttons for immediate activation of frequently used functions like scanning, image e-mail attachment and copyright.

LiDE 20 and LiDE 30 scanners don't have power cords for less mess and better portability. It acquires power from the CPU itself via the USB cord. Both scanners are able to achieve USB 2.0 in full speed. Installed with 48-bit input to produce over 281 trillion possible colors, the LiDE 20 boasts an optical resolution of 600 x 1,200 dpi while the LiDE 30 scanner has a tighter resolution of 1,200 x 2,400 dpi.

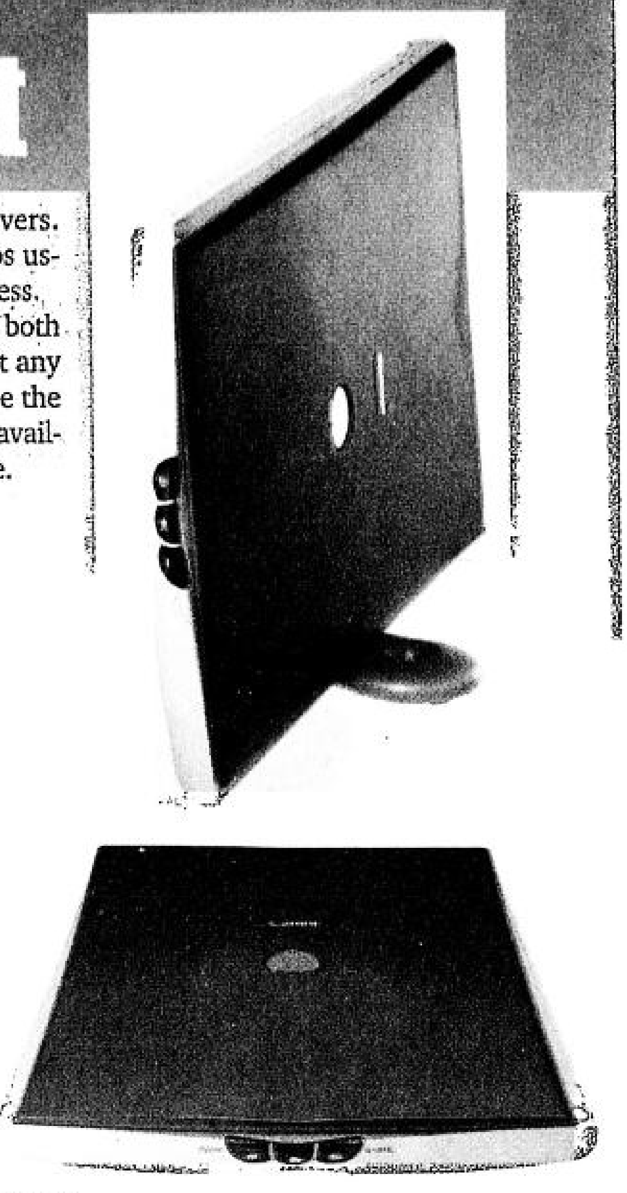
A refreshing change from the conventional scanners are the ocean blue (for LiDE 20) and light blue metallic (LiDE 30) scanner covers. Added features like music playback keeps users entertained during the scanning process.

Canon makes technology affordable to both the consumer and business markets. Visit any Canon authorized reseller and experience the digital magic. LiDE 20 and LiDE 30 is now available nationwide at a very reasonable price.

- packs your memories into musical slide show
- scans several photos or documents in one go
- excellent scan resolution
- user-friendly features
- complete suite of software



LiDE30



LiDE20

CANON recognizes NT Computers as its top XNU i320 preferred dealer. Shown (from left) are Jonjon Ornopia, sales and marketing manager, Consumer System Products Division (CSPD), Canon, Cristina Pecson, Henry Chua, NT Computers, and Vincent Sanchez, senior sales and marketing manager, CSPD, Canon. Also joining the list of i320 preferred dealers are Accent Micro, Acenet, Columbia Computers, Acrotech, Complink, Concept, Datacore, Electroworld, PC Express, PC Option, Proton, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority, Villman Computers, MSC Data Exchange and West Ave Computers.

Canon's Large Format Printers outclass others

The market for large-sized output printers has been evolving rapidly with vendors bringing newer models to the market regularly. The focus of vendors has been towards improving the quality of output (higher resolutions, wider color gamuts) and faster speeds. The driving factor behind this has been rising customer expectations and the need for higher productivity in general.

To tap this growing market opportunity and become a key player in this market, Canon has added two new large format printers to its product range: Large Format Printer W7200 & Large Format Printer W7250. These new LFPs are designed to provide advantages that no other LFP in their class can.

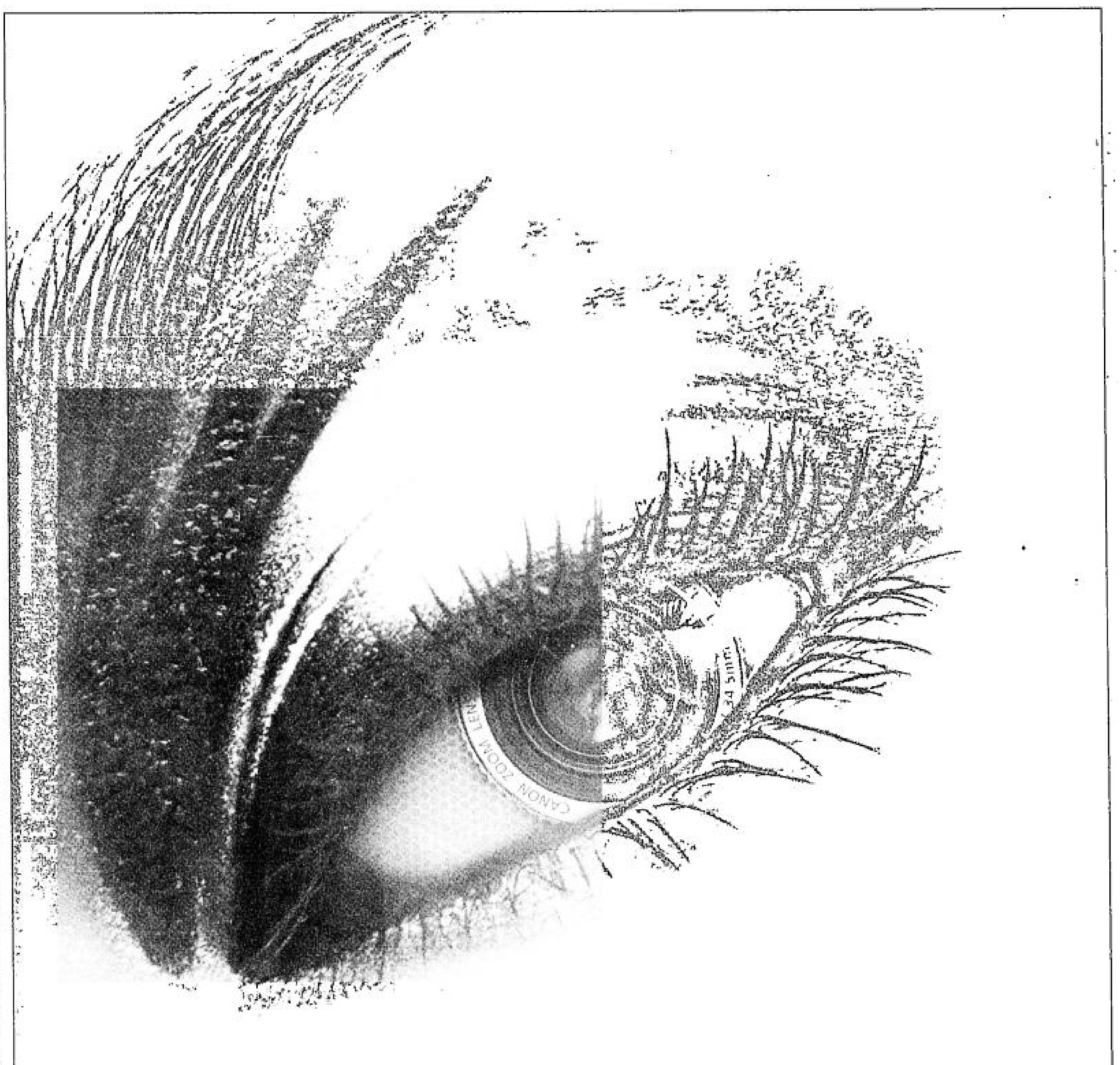
Through the use of ultra high density head and special six color inks, these printers can achieve breathtaking print quality with a resolution of 1200 dpi. Canon's patented Microfine Droplet Technology further helps to enhance the true-to-life quality of prints.

It can also print at breakneck speeds. Canon's new 1" wide print head consists of 7680 nozzles and boasts the highest nozzle density in this class of LFPs. This enables these printers to achieve extremely high print speeds. W7200 can print an A0 (36") print in just [illegible] minutes.

Both printers can also [illegible] of large-format printing. Their unique front loading design, small footprint and multi-interfaces (USB, [illegible]) provide high convenience in operation.

These new printers use high capacity long-life ink bottles and tubing system that reduces the need for frequent refilling and overstocking of inks. In addition, Canon has built-in Smart sensor in the ink tank [illegible] the user [illegible] remaining [illegible] in the tank.

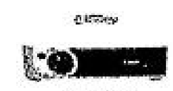
[illegible] media including plain paper, coated paper, heavy coated paper, glossy paper, glossy photo paper, [illegible] film.



Perfect vision

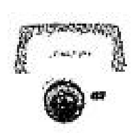
The human eye. Able to adapt to any lighting condition and distance. Canon lenses, ditto. It's a technology we've been perfecting for over sixty years as a camera manufacturer. And by applying this knowledge, we've managed to break new ground again. With a series of projectors that are sharper, clearer and more brilliant than ever. The new projectors from Canon. Born of perfection.

LV-X1
1,100 ANSI Lumens.
TrueXGA, 2.8kg



LV-7340
1,500/1,300 ANSI Lumens.
TrueXGA, 4.0kg

LV-7345
2,100/1,800 ANSI Lumens.
TrueXGA, 4.0kg



LV-7545
3,700/3,200 ANSI Lumens.
TrueXGA, 8.5kg

LV-S1
1,000 ANSI Lumens.
True SVGA , 2.8kg

Also Available: LV-5110/5100/7105, LV-7320, LV-7325, LV-7525, LV-7510 Models

Technology that makes you smile

YES! I want to know more about the Canon Multi-Media Projectors featured here.

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Canon
Technology that makes you smile

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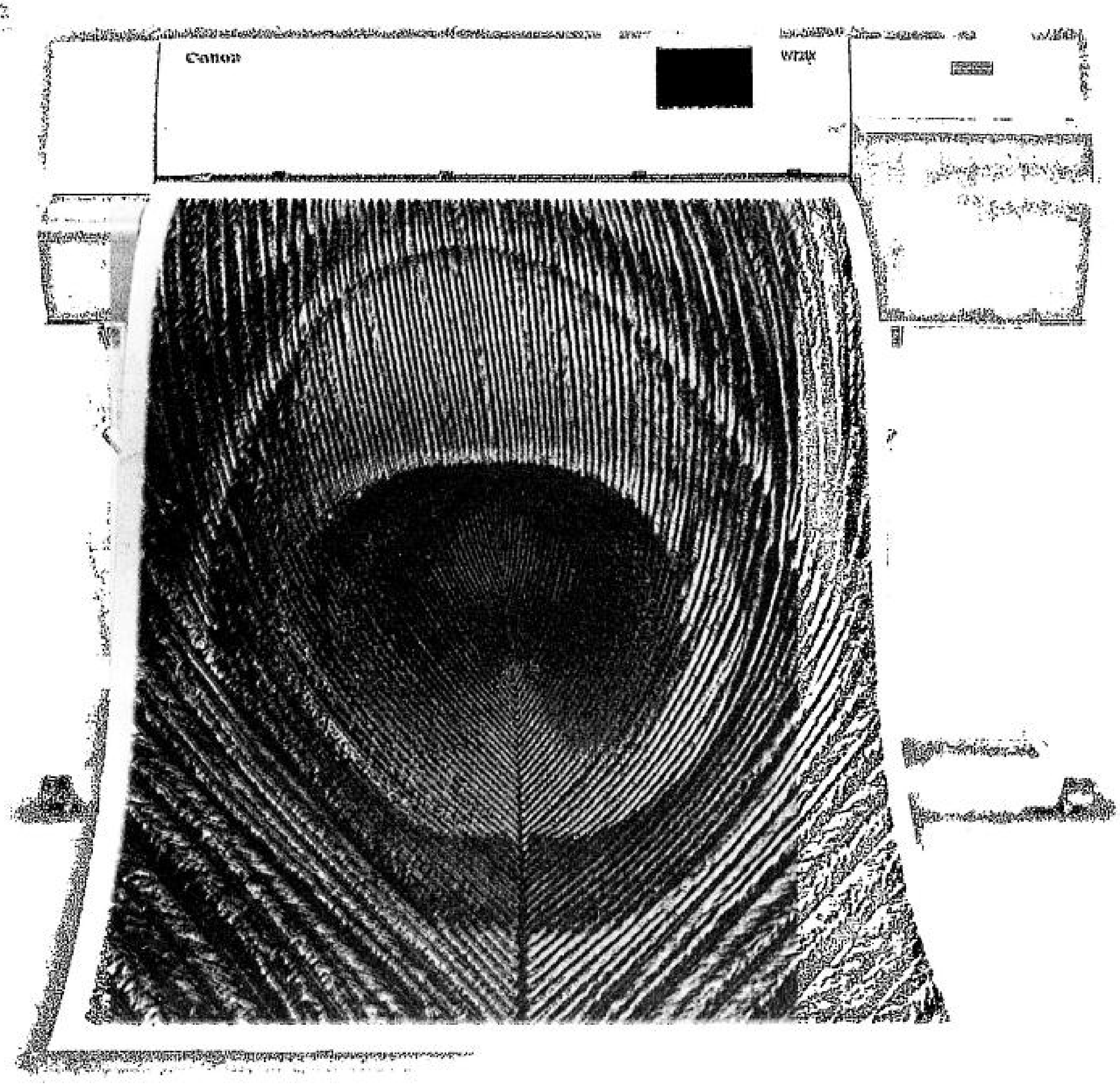
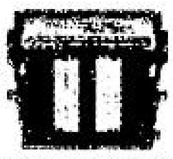
It's all in the details.



Everyone knows the mark of a good print lies in how much detail it shows. The trouble is, high quality often equates to a loss of speed, something that design houses, publishing and print shops can't afford to compromise on. Not anymore. Canon is proud to present the new W7200 36" Model and W7250 24" Model. The ultra-fast, ultra-fine Large-Format Printers that combine breathtaking print quality with breakneck speed! Thanks to a high-precision, one-inch wide print head that packs an unbelievable 7,680 nozzles, this ingenious invention gives you 1200 dpi resolution and prints at a supersonic speed of just 90 seconds for an A1 print.* What's more, Canon's MicroFine Droplet Technology and Six-Colour inks further enhance print quality to photographic levels. So go ahead. Scrutinize our prints. We're sure you'll be impressed.



1" wide print head with 7,680 nozzles.

*Based on JIS ISO SCID No.5 image in Draft mode.

Also available: BJ-W9000 42" Model

YES! I want to know more about Canon Large-Format Printers

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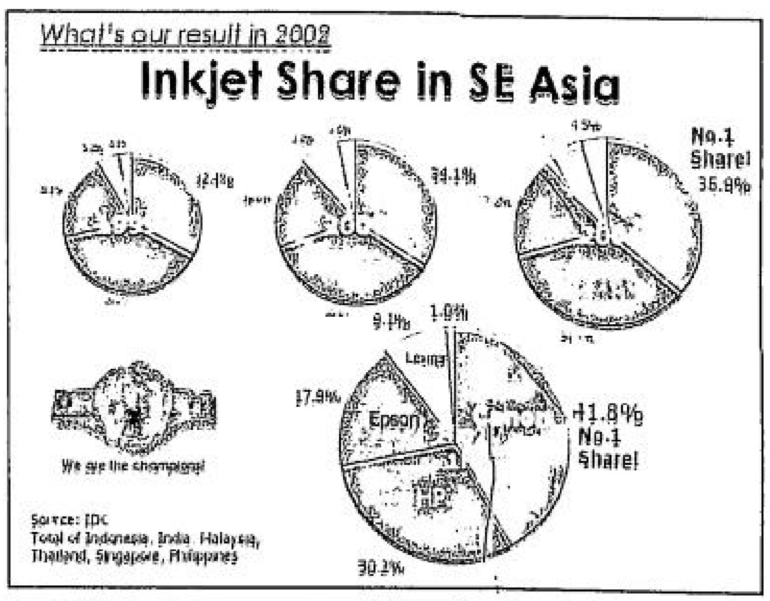
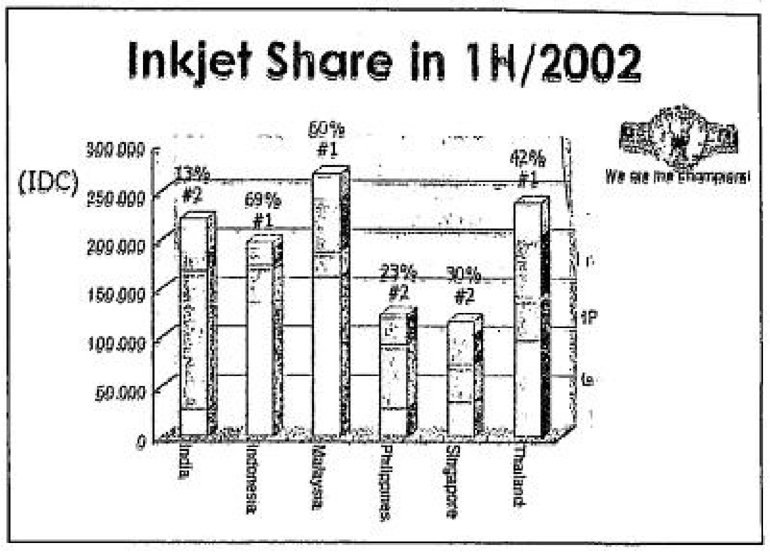
Canon

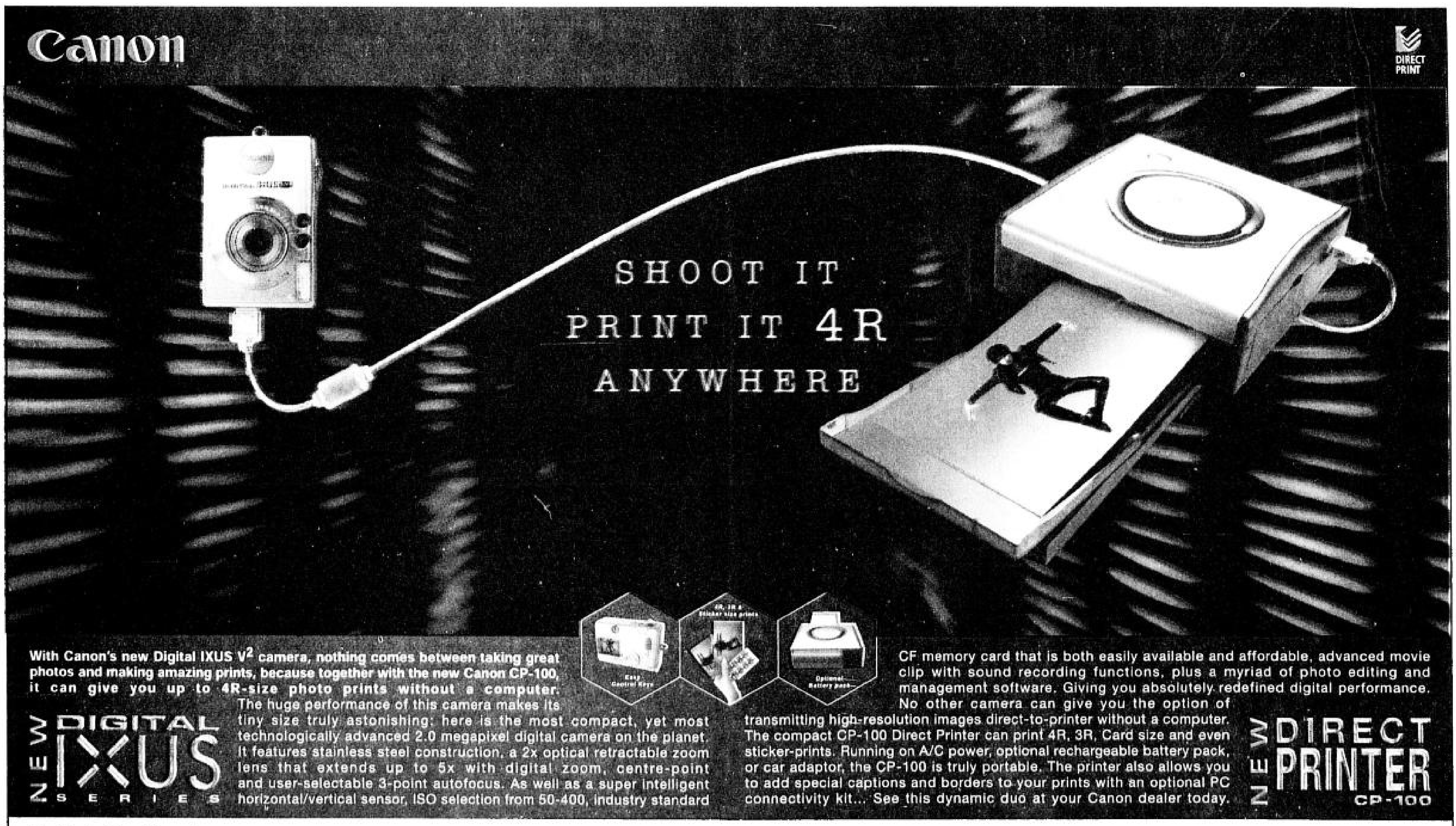
Milestones

- Consolidated figures from IDC for Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and India affirm Canon Bubble Jet Printer's No. 1 positioning in terms of market share at 35.88 percent in 2001. The first six months of 2002 saw an increase to 41.76-percent market share for color inkjet printers in the consolidated ranking. Canon remains committed to its No. 1 position for 2002.
- Canon devotes 10 percent of its gross revenue to Research and Development (R&D). In 2002, it devotes US$1.7 billion for its R&D work, and an additional US$77 million for research on digital imaging. Canon's philosophy is to research on products that are based on true Canon technology.
- According to Fortune magazine's "Global 500" survey, Canon is ranked 6th within the "Computers and Office Equipment" industry. In the same survey released in July 2002, Canon is in 106th position in terms of revenue.
- Canon is among the top five companies receiving the most number of US patents in the world.



Source: IDC
Total of Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines





With Canon's new Digital IXUS V^2 camera, nothing comes between taking great photos and making amazing prints, because together with the new Canon CP-100, it can give you up to 4R-size photo prints without a computer.

NEW DIGITAL IXUS SERIES

The huge performance of this camera makes its tiny size truly astonishing: here is the most compact, yet most technologically advanced 2.0 megapixel digital camera on the planet. It features stainless steel construction, a 2x optical retractable zoom lens that extends up to 5x with digital zoom, centre-point and user-selectable 3-point autofocus. As well as a super intelligent horizontal/vertical sensor, ISO selection from 50-400, industry standard CF memory card that is both easily available and affordable, advanced movie clip with sound recording functions, plus a myriad of photo editing and management software. Giving you absolutely redefined digital performance.

No other camera can give you the option of transmitting high-resolution images direct-to-printer without a computer. The compact CP-100 Direct Printer can print 4R, 3R, Card size and even sticker-prints. Running on A/C power, optional rechargeable battery pack, or car adaptor, the CP-100 is truly portable. The printer also allows you to add special captions and borders to your prints with an optional PC connectivity kit... See this dynamic duo at your Canon dealer today.

NEW DIRECT PRINTER CP-100

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RAM getting restless again, joins anti-GMA group

Story on PAGE A2

Halloween becomes Christmas

By TJ Burgonio

"TRICK or treat" doesn't happen until All Souls' Day, but the national police got an early one yesterday.

A package carried by a taxi into Camp

HALLOWEEN/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Russia admits gas killed 115 hostages

MOSCOW—In a startling announcement, Russian health officials admitted Sunday that a gas used in a special forces operation that ended a Chechen hostage crisis was responsible for the deaths of 115 of the captives and serious injuries to dozens more.

Moscow chief medical officer Andrei Seltsovsky said that only two hostages

RUSSIA/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, October 29, 2002 ★★ 52 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 323 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Yes to Luna, no to GSIS

'A case of damned if you do, damned if you don't'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta, Agnes E. Donato and Cynthia D. Balana

OF. COURSE, they want Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" returned to the country, but object to the use of their hard-earned money in acquiring it because the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) cannot even pay their claims for health and injury benefits.

Government workers accused Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, of "wanton" use of their money a day after the GSIS bought the Luna painting at an auction in Hong Kong for P50 million. The GSIS administers the pension fund that comes from the mandatory contributions of 1.4 million government employees.

"It is appalling for us GSIS members to learn from the news that this is how GSIS officials have been spending the money which came from our sweat and blood," said the head of a government workers' union.

"They should be held criminally liable," said Ferdinand Gaite, president of the Confederation for the Organization, Unity and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage).

He said that it was bad enough that the GSIS released P1 billion to the Public Estates Authority for the construction of

YES TO LUNA A18

Palace defends GSIS' 50-M purchase

By Carlito Pablo, Clarissa S. Batino and Juliet Labog-Javellana

NOT P46 million as earlier reported but P50.6 million.

This is the amount that the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will shell out for Juan Luna's "Parisian Life."

On top of its winning bid of HK$6,674,100 (US$867,633 or about P46 million) for the painting, the GSIS will have to pay a premium of 10 percent of the final bid price, according to international auctioneer Christie's. The painting was auctioned off by Christie's in Hong Kong on Sunday.

Despite the price, Malacañang defended the GSIS for acquiring the painting. "It's really priceless," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Garcia himself said it was a case of damned if you do, damned if you don't. When a higher bid came by telephone, Garcia said he knew that he had to do something. The person on the phone bid P40 million.

"We made a judgment call. We will not allow this painting to fall into for-

PALACE/ A18

GSIS invites Nakpil sisters to 'Parisian' unveiling

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FRANCISCA and Mercedes Nakpil will be the first to view Juan Luna's "Parisian Life," which they have not seen for more than 30 years, in a special room of the GSIS Museum in the reclamation area on Roxas Boulevard.

GSIS president Winston Garcia said he would invite the two women at the unveiling and installation of the 110-year-old painting in the museum.

"It's a priceless treasure, a part of our heritage which our people can visit and view for free," Garcia said upon returning from Hong Kong.

The Nakpil sisters, aged 96 and 88 years old respectively, earlier told the INQUIRER that they opposed the sale because the painting belonged to the entire Nakpil clan. They and another sister, Caridad Santos Viola, 84, are the three surviving children of Julio Nakpil, composer of the Katipunan anthem and Gregoria de Jesus, the Katipunan's muse

GSIS/ A18

THAT'S my girl, US President George W. Bush seems to be telling world leaders at the Apec summit of his fondness toward the Philippine President. REUTERS

Apec vows to fight poverty, terrorism

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico—In a summit overshadowed by terrorist attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia and the hostage crisis in Moscow, Pacific Rim leaders wound up their gathering Monday by committing to use trade to reduce poverty.

The leaders said jobs and education were among their strongest tools in a global struggle against terrorism.

A year after condemning the Sept. 11 attacks and launching a global campaign against terror, top officials from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, including China and Japan, which account for about 60 percent of global output and half of international trade, acknowledged in a joint statement Sunday that they needed to do more.

Mexican President Vicente Fox said that unlike last year's Apec resolution, which strongly condemned terrorism, this year leaders set deadlines for the security measures they recommended and came up with ways to make sure countries comply. He said the threat of terrorism was still strong.

Apec leaders called on North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, adding that economic benefits from the communist country's growing ties in the

APEC/ A17

GMA sets 7-point work agenda for next 6 months

By Leah Makabenta

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had set for herself a "tightly consolidated" seven-point work agenda for the next six months to stimulate the economy in the face of a global slowdown.

The President made the announcement before some 1,500 Filipino Americans at the Mariott Hotel ballroom here last night.

Her seven-point program is the following:

- To strengthen the country's small and medium industries through improved access to information, human capacity building, financing and health care;
- To jump-start the housing sector;
- To reduce transport costs from Mindanao to Luzon;

GMA/ A17

A CANDLE marks the spot where Arturo Gallardo Eufemia (inset) was killed by seven armed men inside his home in Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City, Rizal. DENNIS SABANGAN

Lotto winner loses life to robbers

By Nelson Flores and Agnes Donato

THE WINNER of a P19-million pot in the Philippine lottery lost his life when seven masked men broke into his house in Antipolo City shortly after midnight yesterday.

Arturo Gallardo Eufemia, 58, a resident of Block 9 Lot 2 Nazarene Ville, Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City, was shot in the face and body when he tried to resist the robbers at about 1 a.m., police said.

Eufemia had just gone to bed after drinking all night with his friends inside his house when the suspects struck, according to the police.

His son, Reynan, 31, said they were asleep when armed men broke into the house and proceeded to his father's bedroom.

Minutes later, Reynan heard gunshots, according to the police.

"When I tried to help my father, the robbers threatened to kill me, and I pleaded for my life," said Reynan.

The robbers left the house with the brand-new Toyota Hi-Ace van of Eufemia and other personal effects, Reynan said.

Police said the robbers are suspected members of the Akyat Bahay Gang.

Eufemia won the lotto's Oct. 12 draw. His son, Reynan, 31, confirmed to the police that his father won P19,936,113.

However, Reynan said he knew nothing about what his father did with the

LOTTO/ A18

Why imported veggies are cheaper

By Gerald Lacuarta

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

DON'T throw just yet rotten tomatoes at the 14 companies which imported in the first nine months of this year 266 tons of "Baguio vegetables."

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor in announcing early this month the names of the companies led by Rustan's chain of supermarkets had expressed alarm.

Though not entirely blaming the importers, farmer groups have also sounded the alarm on the massive displacement of local vegetables, notably the so-called Baguio vegetables of Benguet, brought about by imported produce flooding the country.

Montemayor has appealed to the importers to exercise "social responsibility" by patronizing local vegetables.

But importers have countered in effect that they don't lack for a social conscience but are only exercising good business practice. They import vegetables because these are of premium quali-

WHY/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

RAM getting restless again, joins PCA

By Martin P. Marfil

IN AN APPARENT change of heart, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, a pro-Macapagal group, recently sent representatives to meet with members of the People's Consultative Assembly, one of the government's most vocal critics.

After the meeting held on Wednesday at the University of the Philippines, RAM said it agreed with PCA's analysis that the country's political system should be changed. The PCA, headed by street protester Linda Montayre, is pushing for the formation of an interim administration prior to the establishment of a parliamentary-type government.

However, RAM said that in order to avoid chaos, it would "withhold action" until the government had had a chance to address all the issues. Asked what would happen if the government failed to this, RAM spokesperson Col. Reynaldo Samaco merely said the group was adopting a "wait and see" attitude for now.

"We will have to see (what happens) in the next few months," Samaco said in a mixture of English and Pilipino. "We'd rather not have (the 2004) elections if nothing changes. We'll wait until Christmas."

What RAM ultimately sought, the spokesperson said, was to amend the Constitution by way of preparing for a parliamentary system.

A coup at this time was not an option, he added, since an interim government could be unacceptable to the people.

He explained, "How are we going to put an interim government in place without a coup? If it's possible for the government itself to initiate changes, that would be more peaceful."

Samaco stressed that RAM was seeking not so much to topple the present administration as to find an alternative setup.

"RAM's stand is that there really is something wrong with the system," he said. "We have to change it, so that whoever is governing the country could come up with measures that would bring about progress at last."

'HI, THIS IS YOLLY!'

'Jueteng' auditor's voice heard at Erap trial

By Volt Contreras

"HI, THIS is Yolly! Please leave your message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can."

State prosecutors yesterday included this cell phone voice recording of alleged juetengate "auditor" Yolanda Ricaforte as part of the evidence against deposed President Joseph Estrada, and were chided for making the plunder trial a "soap opera."

The government lawyers made Smart Communications' legal department chief Rogelio Quevedo play in court the "archived" recording of what they claimed to be Ricaforte's voice on her old Nokia 6150.

This was in the course of prosecution's presentation of documents pertaining to Smart phone lines acquired by lawyer Edward Serapio, now one of Estrada's co-accused, and by Fontainbleau Corp., the casino-operating firm allegedly financed by Estrada's jeuteng money.

Two lines issued to Fontainbleu were earlier proven to have been used by Ricaforte and Menchu Itchon, an employee of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, juetengate whistle-blower.

Since the Estrada impeachment trial two years ago, prosecutors have put much weight on Ricaforte's phone records and bills, in proving that she was in touch with Estrada and his co-accused son Jinggoy regarding the alleged scam.

Off-court, Estrada's court-appointed lawyer Prospero Crescini lashed at prosecutors for still presenting Ricaforte's voice recording, when Smart documents were "already clear" about the phone's ownership.

"(It was) all for show," said Crescini.

Prosecutors also called back a previous witness, Equitable PCIBank-Ortigas branch teller Glyzelyn Bejec, who again recounted in detail how funds flowed into the "Jose Velarde" account allegedly owned by Estrada.

From September 1999 to July 2000, some P473 million in 20 checks were deposited to the account, said Bejec, who first took the stand last May. She said the checks were issued by nine different banks, and that one of these was for P20-million, from the Asian Bank account of Philippine Long Distance Telephone chair Manny Pangilinan, deposited on Nov. 5, 1999.

RICAFORTE

When discovered during the Estrada impeachment trial, the Jose Velarde account was said to have contained as much as P3.2 billion.

Pinoys no high-risk travelers, says US Embassy

By N. Bordadora

DESPITE adopting more stringent measures in screening visa applicants, the US Embassy in Manila does not consider Filipinos as "high risk" travelers into the United States.

"Filipinos in general are not considered high risk individuals," said US consul general Donald Donahue in a news briefing yesterday afternoon.

The US official's announcement comes in the wake of the impending increase in the visa application fee from just $65 to $100 at the US Embassy.

The embassy and the consulate general has announced that the increase was to cover the cost of more stringent security and screening measures.

"Stricter measures for visa screening have been adopted to ensure the security and safety of US citizens and foreigners in the US," a US official in the country said.

US officials said that more than six million foreigners have been placed on the US "lookout list" after the 9-11 attacks.

US Embassy First Secretary Christopher Rowan declined to identify the Filipinos included in the voluminous list. He also declined to specify the number of Filipinos in the list.

The identities of those in the list have been turned over to the National Criminal Information Center under the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The US officials also expressed concern over the growing number of undocumented aliens in the US.

99 PASS ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR PAF FLYING TRAINING

The Philippine Air Force Flying School (PAFFS) today announced that ninety-nine (99) out of 1,206 examinees of the PAF Aviation Cadet Program Entrance Examination last September 29, 2002 hurdled the test.

The successful examinees were: Abo, Arvin G; Abulencia Christian Leo N; Achas, Eros Jesus P; Alayon, Eugene D; Albaracin, Gavino III C; Amiruddin, Vladimir C; Andres, Alvin E; Aquino, Rinomir E; Arada, Rizanina Bel M; Aragon, Lemuel Alwin R; Armendi, Francis C; Arroyo, Arnie S; Bahian, Jonathan G; Balingit, Nhestor G; Bergonio, Erwin F; Buhong, Peter Jr. H; Buslon, Jambi I; Caingles, Winthor J; Campomanes, Ma. Teresita A; Canullas, Karen P; Carag, Alfred Vincent M; Cardines, Nino Cliford A; Castillo, Jhulcel M; Coma, Edwin P; Culanculan, Charles G; Dalope, Benjamin D; de Guzman, Melduard B; De Limos, Jeffrey T; Dimatatac, Jadrean D; Dofitas, Ben Bryan M; Durano, Paul R; Flores, Richard T; Gaerlan, Jay Millan B; Gaor, Dennis N; Gapasin, Reginald D; Gomonit, Niel Joseph C; Guevarra, Edwin Andrews Q; Gumabay, Glenn Mark D; Ignacio, Julius S; Imbang, Paul Lyndon F; Iribani, Al-rasid Jr U; Justiniani, Jim Bean D; Kindaca, Michael Paul B; Lago, Ralph T; Lascano, Manuel Paolo A; Laurin, Arthur Lawrence D; Lim, Eldon Augustus C; Liquido, Billy Joel J; Lopez, Marlon Stanley Ford V; Luzarraga, James Earl G; Macasil, Efren Armando Jr. M; Madera, Rolly Ben M; Magnaye, Jose Jr. I; Magsisi, Joel I; Majarocon, Mandy R; Mang-usan, Joseph B; Marty, Christian M; Meimban, Napoleon Brian V; Nagallo, Michael I; Obina, Jude D; Octaviano, Fhebie Marie I; Padernal, Noriel P; Padura, Dimpine A; Paguirigan, Ryan A; Panuncillo, Alvin Q; Pascual, Marvin A; Pasiliao, John III B; Penaflor, Allan M; Pilarca, Francis Angelo I; Pineda, Allan G; Pino Brent S; Principe, Ryan P; Reblora, Eddie B; Remo, Omer M; Reyes, Marco V; Reyes, Janet M; Robles, Earl I; Rodriguez, Isidro III E; Rubiales, Rommel K; San Diego, Tee-jay A; Sapitula, Herbert P; Sarmiento, Edel C; Sesante, Kristian A; Sianquiata, Glenn P; Singson, Jessie Jr. S; Sisante, Gorgonio Jr. D; Sobremisana, Maria Theresa A; Soldivillo, Eric A; Tan, Avelou P; Tarun, Christian B; Temporaza, Archibald A; Tolica, Pellinor O; Udaundo, Claudio Jr. D; Uy, Orense P; Valdez, Carlo P; Venturillo, Reagan M; Villamor, Jhon Cris R and Ycong, Dexter B.

Successful applicants will be officially notified of their test results. They will be directed to report to the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Liaison Office at Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base for physical and medical examinations on dates specified in their respective notices.

For other additional information, plese call (632) 8535150 or visit www.paf.mil.ph

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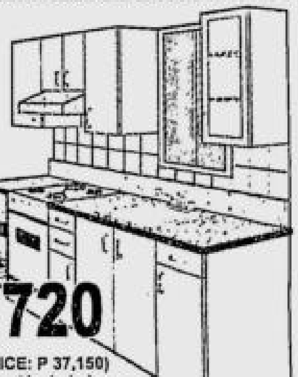

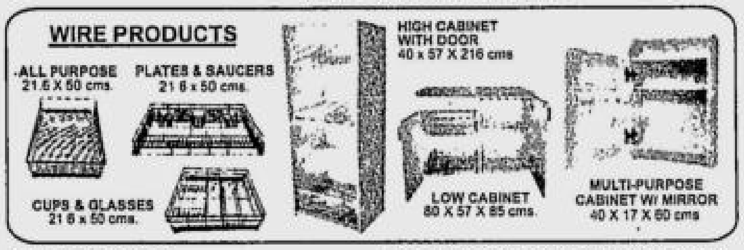
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BLAST SUSPECT'S ESCAPE

DOJ wants jailer probed

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez ordered yesterday the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct a parallel probe to ascertain the culpability of the police commander who was blamed for Wednesday's escape of the suspected mastermind of the General Santos City bombing.

At a press conference, Perez said that he had directed NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco to investigate the circumstances of the escape of Abdul Basit Usman from the headquarters of the 1206th mobile group in Sarangani province.

"I have directed the NBI to investigate the circumstances of the escape of said prisoner, and see who should be charged (with) infidelity in the custody of the prisoners," said Perez.

Perez said the police commander, Senior Insp. Auselito Cabang, who was relieved following the discovery of the escape, would also face contempt charges.

"The prisoner has not been turned over to the court and therefore he is not placed under the jurisdiction of the court yet. He is still in the custody of the PNP. We are filing a motion in court to cite the jailer in contempt," he said.

Central Mindanao Police Chief Supt. Jose Dalumpines had already ordered a through investigation into Usman's escape, which was the latest in a string of embarrassing escapes from police detention centers across the country.

Perez also confirmed that the escapee was being held by the police for masterminding the bomb attack that killed 15 innocent shoppers at a mall in General Santos City on April 21.

Police nabbed Usman on July 21 at the boundary of Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces after another suspect pointed to him as the mastermind.

Described as a foreign-trained bomb expert, he is believed to be the leader of the Abu Muslim group, which has ties to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Bodies of 5 piracy victims found

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Authorities have recovered the bodies of five of eight fishermen killed by pirates, an official said yesterday.

The five bullet-riddled bodies were plucked from the sea off the small island of Baluk-Baluk on Sunday, said Cris Puno, spokesperson for the provincial government of nearby Basilan island. Relatives identified the bodies, he added.

Unidentified pirates attacked a group of fishermen the previous day, killing eight men and stealing their boat engines. Two other fishermen escaped.

AFP

Blast victim now a suspect

ZAMBOANGA CITY—One of the victims of the deadly blast here recently has been arrested for assaulting police who accused him of being part of the group that planted the bomb, police said yesterday.

Police posted guards on Jamalul Norting's hospital bed after suspicion fell on the 39-year-old man, Chief Insp. Antonio Clarito told reporters.

The Oct. 20 blast outside a Roman Catholic shrine here killed a soldier and injured 17 others, including Norting.

Police later arrested five men who were charged in court for a series of bombings here that killed 12 people, including the lone fatality at the shrine.

Norting, who was being treated for shrapnel injuries, tried to escape through the back door of the Zamboanga City Medical Center on Wednesday.

The two policemen assigned to guard him blocked his way but the suspect allegedly attacked them with a broken bottle. He was overpowered and charged with assault and later transferred to a local prison.

The government blames Islamic militants for the blasts.

AFP

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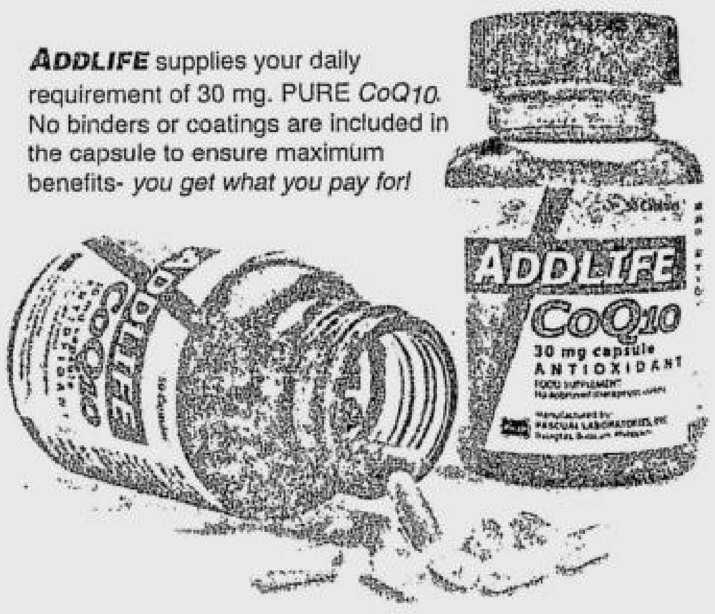

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Palace orders offices to report name-droppers

By Dona Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG has directed all government agencies to report persons claiming to be acting on behalf of the First Couple in transacting business with the government.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo issued the order in a memorandum dated Oct. 25.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo, during her radio program on Sept. 21, ordered the arrest of influence peddlers who name-drop her and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

He gave the heads of agencies until Nov. 15 to submit an initial report. "You are further required to submit subsequent reports on the matter when necessary," he added.

The National Bureau of Investigation has so far arrested two businessmen who told government officials that they were acting on Arroyo's behalf.

Int'l airlines ready to move to Naia 3, says terminal GM

By Norman Bordadora

SEVERAL international airlines have expressed willingness to transfer their operations to Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Dec. 15, despite issues being raised against the new facility's readiness to accommodate the traditionally sizeable passenger and cargo traffic during the Christmas season.

Naia 3 general manager Guillermo Cunanan said the airlines have decided to move from Naia 1, ignoring requests from the Board of Airline Representatives (BAR)—the association of international airlines operating in the Philippines—for the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) to delay relocations.

"We continue to conduct talks with the BAR about its objection," Cunanan said in a news briefing. He declined to name the airlines supporting the move as proposed by the MIAA and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co.

"We are also continuing talks with Philippine Airlines for the transfer of its international operations from Naia 2 to Naia 3," Cunanan added.

The BAR and PAL have opposed the move because Naia 3 has no cargo facility and access roads to the other terminals. Also, the BAR was concerned about shifting operations during the holidays, when airport traffic is at its peak.

"We were starting to construct a cargo facility," Cunanan said, "but we were stopped because it was not part of the original plan. We hope the government will soon allow us to complete it." He said the access roads would be completed by February next year.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday led tourism and transportation officials in a dry run and walk-through inspection of the new terminal, during which she personally tried the check-in and boarding facilities.

Daisuke Fukamachi, project manager of Takenaka, Naia 3's general contractor, said he was confident that the inspection would result in a completion certificate, the go-signal for full operations.

DRY RUN—Suitcases are lined up at the check-in counters of the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport during yesterday's dry run conducted by the builders and operators of the controversial terminal.

ROGER MARGALLO

Perez wants lifestyle check on all cops

By Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER politicians and government officials, the justice department now wants the police officers—from the lowest rank of PO1 to the director general—to be subjected to lifestyle check.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said police officers, particularly those with many wives, should be scrutinized by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

"Maybe, besides presidential appointees, (we should do lifestyle check) on the policemen, particularly those with many wives. If we really want transparency, we should check the lifestyle of the policemen," he said.

He told reporters yesterday he would formally make this suggestion during an executive committee meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I will suggest that not only chiefs of police but the (entire PNP organization) and everyone in the government should be included," he said.

Perez issued the comment after Ms Macapagal ordered PAGC, which is mandated to investigate corrupt government officials, to conduct a lifestyle check on all government officials.

However, some senators had expressed reservations about the capability of PAGC to carry out the President's directive because of its limited resources and manpower.

But Perez is supportive of the directive "for the sake of transparency."

He disclosed that PAGC chair Dario Rama had already started a preliminary inquiry into the wealth of government officials by asking them to submit copies of their statements of assets and liabilities.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS—Clients bound by mistakes of counsel—Petitioners were represented by a law firm which meant that any of its members could lawfully act as their counsel during the trial. As such, "[w]hen a client employs the services of a law firm, he does not employ the services of the lawyer who is assigned to personally handle the case. Rather, he employs the entire law firm. In the event that the counsel appearing for the client resigns, the firm is bound to provide a replacement." Petitioner cannot now complain of counsel's errors. "[l]itigants, represented by counsel, should not expect that all they need to do is sit back, relax and await the outcome of their case xxx" Especially in this case, where petitioner has a legal department to monitor its pending cases and to liaise with its retained counsel. To agree with petitioner's stance would enable every party to render inutile any adverse order or decision through the simple expedient of alleging gross negligence on the part of its counsel. The Court will not countenance such a farce which contradicts long-settled doctrines of trial and procedure. Hence, there is no justifiable reason to exempt petitioner from the general rule that clients should suffer the consequences of the negligence, mistake or lack of competence of the counsel whom they themselves hired and had the full authority to fire at any time and replace with another even without any justifiable reason. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, Producers Bank of the Philippines v. Court of Appeals, Third Division, G. R. No. 126620, April 17, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 29, 2002
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Eph 5:21-33
Gospel:	Lk 13:18-21

Jesus said, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? Imagine a person who has taken a mustard seed and planted it in the garden. The seed has grown and become like a small tree, so that the birds of the air shelter in its branches."

And Jesus said again, "What is the kingdom of God like? Imagine a woman who has taken yeast and hidden it in three measures of flour until it is all leavened."

Commentary

Some years back I made a long pilgrimage by foot. The road was hard. I was feeling tired. I finally arrived at the inn. Other pilgrims were arriving. We didn't know each other. But there was a person in charge of the inn. She was welcoming us and attending to our needs. To some she gave a bucket of water for their tired feet. Others were requested to help prepare the meals. And she succeeded into changing a group of strangers into a family sharing a simple meal around a common table. At that moment, I remembered the parable of the mustard seed. I prayed for our Christian communities that they also would have this ability of hospitality and welcome.

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LTO, DOTC dared: Clear the air or face lawsuits

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CLEAR the air or see you in court.

This was the challenge hurled last week by lawyer-members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to the Land Transportation Office and the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Lawyers led by Antonio Oposa, president of Batas Kalikasan, have asked the two government agencies to implement the vehicle emission standards in the Clean Air Act of 1999 and act on complaints agaist smoke-belchers, or face citizen's class suits left and right.

They sent a Notice to File Citizen's Suit addressed to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso, complaining against the deferment of the air emissions testing program as required by the Clean Air Act or Republic Act 8749.

Suspension of testing

Oposa cited a memorandum issued by DOTC Undersecretary Arturo Valdez on Oct. 14 and addressed to Lastimoso, which suspended the mandatory emissions testing of public utility vehicles until Jan. 2, 2003.

"For some unclear reasons and without any legal bases Undersecretary Arturo Valdez issued a memorandum circular . . . suspending the mandatory emissions testing of all public utility vehicles until (next year) despite its being over delayed in implementation," the lawyers noted in their letter to Mendoza.

Oposa said the DOTC and LTO merely issued summons to less than half of the 3,796 motor vehicles caught smoke belching by the Bantay Usok Campaign as of Oct. 18 and more than 70 percent of the total remain improperly acted upon. The Bantay Usok campaign launched in February 2000 is a crucial step in the ongoing $300 million Asian Development Bank-supported Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program.

The lawyers demanded the serving of special summonses and conduct public hearing of the top 10 bus companies who were openly violating the Clean Air Act. The LTO and DOTC have regulatory powers to keep smoke belching vehicles off the road.

"After the lapse of 30 days and no satisfactory reply shall have been received, this Notice to Sue shall immediately convert into a Citizen's Suit for the appropriate administrative, civil, and criminal actions as may be warranted under the circumstances," the complaint stated.

Oposa said the notice to sue was in line with Section 14 of the Clean Air Act which empowers ordinary citizens to file complaints against violators of the law before any implementing agency, and expect action within 30 days after filing.

Oposa said according to the procedures laid down by the law, the implementing agency should even inform the complainant of the actions it had taken on the complaint. If the complaint remains unacted upon, the complaint automatically converts into a suit against the erring agency.

Little known provision

"The law has been there for so long but nobody knows about this provision. We are now telling ordinary citizens that they can report any smoke belcher or any air quality violation and expect action within 30 days. This is how you make the law work," Oposa said.

"The government alone cannot implement the law. The citizens should help in implementing the law, in this case, by filing complaints against violators," he said.

At least 35 IBP members from the government service and private practice showed up at a news conference on Thursday at the IBP office at the Ortigas Center to show support for the move. There they launched the Lawyers and Citizens for Breathable Air.

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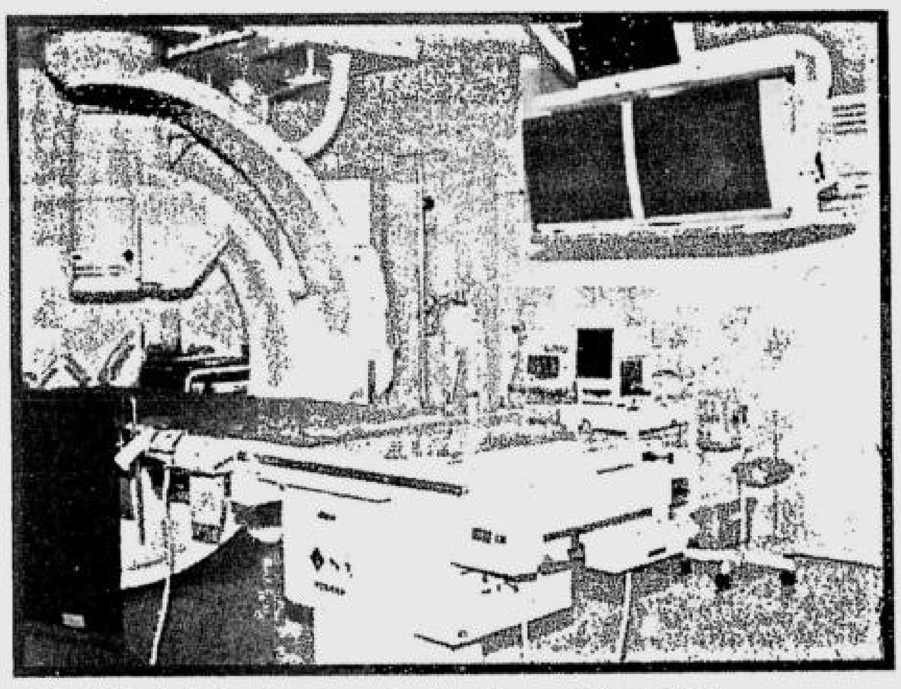

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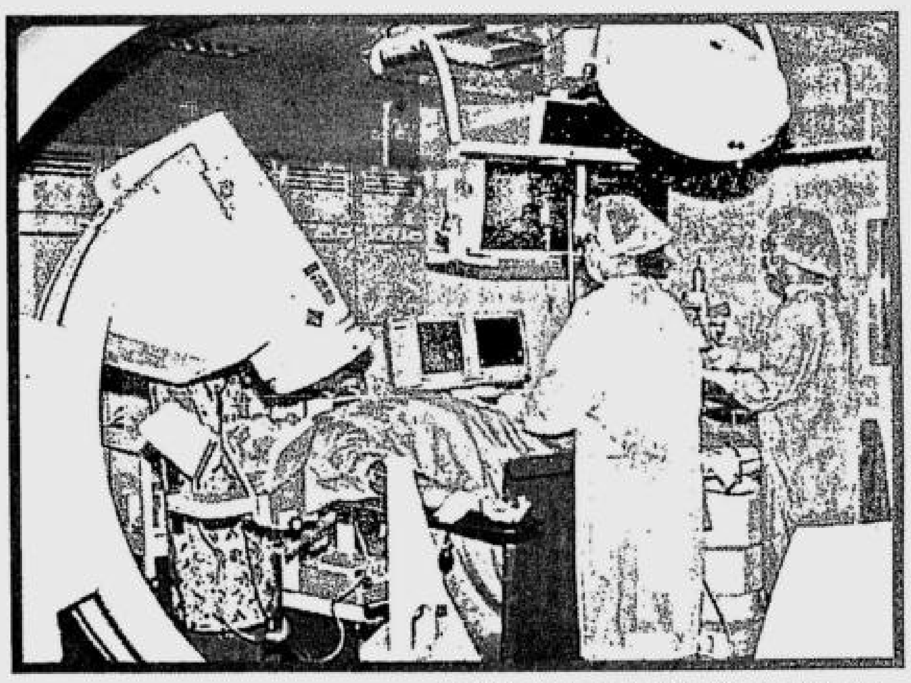

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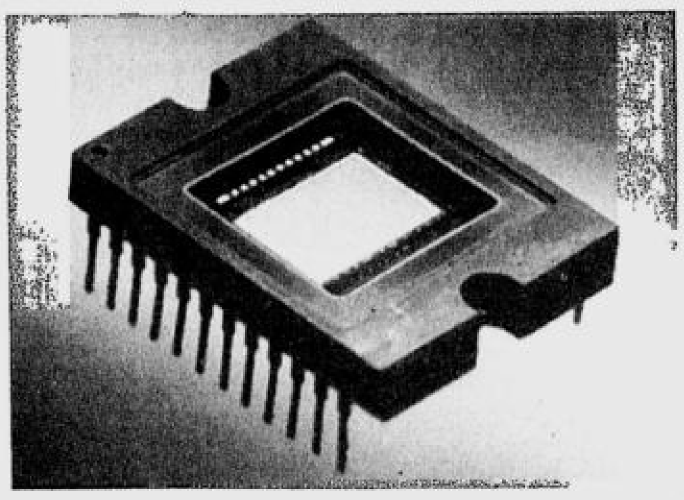

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Rethink ID plan, solon asks Palace

By Juliet L. Javellana

A LAKAS congressman yesterday urged Malacañang to rethink its plan to allow local government units to issue identification cards to its constituents while Congress has not approved a measure to institute a national identification system.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, warned that issuing local IDs would be dangerous because these could be faked.

Foolproof

"We will only have a foolproof ID system if this is administered under a central authority. Otherwise, we will only have a duplication of the present setup, where there are many issuers of government IDs," Pichay said in a statement.

Pichay warned that local IDs would only be a waste of government funds and worse, could even be used by criminals and terrorists to produce spurious identity papers.

He said Malacañang should not rush the local government units into issuing their uniform IDs.

Pichay also said Malacañang should not raise false hopes that the national ID system would eliminate terrorist attacks and criminality.

"They are selling the national ID for the wrong reason," Pichay said in a phone interview.

Pichay filed in October last year House Bill 3369 calling for the establishment of a national ID system to be administered by the Bureau of Immigration.

He said the primary purpose of the national ID is to enable the people to transact with the government more conveniently because it could lessen the red tape involving identification processes.

Pichay said a national ID will also help clean up the electoral system by eliminating double-counting and flying vote.

FROM 'TAGA' TO EVELIO JAVIER

400 patriots of Panay honored

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Eight two-meter-high banners with the names of political martyrs provided a gloomy backdrop for a memorial service held Saturday.

Relatives, friends, and comrades gently ran their fingers over the red banners during the tribute to Panay patriots who died in "the struggle"—some 400 since the 1970s.

Among the most prominent in the commemorative list were Antique Governor Evelio Javier, student writer Antonio Tagamolila, brothers John and Edward de la Fuente, Ateneo student Ferdinand Arceo, peasant leader Valeriano Caro, Fr. Jose Ernesto Torre, and former Hukbalahap guerrilla Coronacion "Waling-waling" Chiva.

Resistance

The ritual, part of the annual celebration of human rights groups in observance of All Souls' Day, was held at St. Clement's Retreat House. It recalled the resistance to "the iron-rule of Ferdinand Marcos, the total-war policy of Corazon Aquino, the human rights violations under Fidel Ramos and the anti-people policies of Joseph Ejercito Estrada."

Victoria Muya recounted how her son Bonifacio screamed while he was tortured by the military on suspicion that he was a member of the New People's Army.

"*Daw ano lang duwa ka karabao nga naga away* (he sounded like two carabaos figthing)."

She said she begged the soldiers to stop, to no avail. She vowed never to forget the incident, and to continue resisting injustice.

Going to the hills

Rewilmer Torrato related that when elder sister Rowena Marie announced that she was going to the hills, the whole family respected her decision. Rowena Marie died in Antique last year, at age 36.

The younger Torrato said their 68-year-old mother Rebecca was surprised by the sheer number of people at the wake, many of them from other provinces—farmers and fishers, men and women they had never met.

"Despite her grief, my mother found consolation in knowing that her daughter had touched many lives," said Rewilmer.

Joan Iquina could not hold back tears as she told of how the body of her husband Leonardo, an NPA guerilla, was found deep in the forest one full year after he died in an encounter with the military.

She said that as part of dealing with her pain, she constantly reminds her children what kind of a person their father was, and what he stood for. To this day, she said, Leonardo's parents refuse to believe he is dead.

The commemorative rites ended with the lighting of dozens of red candles. Then the participants met to discuss the proposed establishment of a permanent memorial at Iloilo's historic Plaza Libertad.

Endorsed by the city's committee on cultural heritage preservation, the proposed memorial is a marble slab where the martyrs' names will be etched. It will cost P80,000.

New malpractice bill proposed

By Christine O. Avendaño

AN ALTERNATIVE to the proposed Medical Malpractice Act is now in the works.

Cagayan De Oro Rep. Constantino Jarauala yesterday said he would file the alternative measure when Congress returns from a two-week break next month.

Jarauala last week withdrew his co-authorship of the controversial House Bill 4955 or Medical Malpractice Act of 2002.

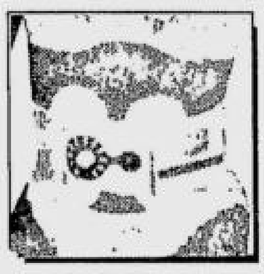
Pangasinan Rep. Oscar Rodriguez is the principal author of the earlier bill, which aims to "criminalize" malpractice in the medical profession, and which has been opposed by several medical associations and the Department of Health.

Jarauala yesterday said he had discussed his version with Rodriguez.

People in the industry with whom he conferred were inclined to support the second bill, Jarauala said, because it "allows medical practitioners to police themselves."

It empowers associations of health practitioners to determine responsibility over malpractice incidents, and recommend the penalty of erring members, he said.

At the same time that it protects patients' rights, Jarauala added, it shields practitioners "from unnecessary fear of prosecution or malicious harassment."



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Cause for optimism

EDITORIAL

"A SMALL film with a big heart." "An uplifting, optimistic film." "A powerful and heartwarming film." "A rare Philippine film that has inspiration and heart...No violence, no gratuitous sex and overbearing melodramatic crying."

These are some of the Filipino and foreign critics' comments on "Mga Munting Tinig (Little Voices)" that is now making waves in Philippine cinema and educational circles.

"Mga Munting Tinig" is more; it is a microcosm not only of the public school system but also of Philippine society. It tells the story of a young teacher, Melinda Santiago (played with artlessness and natural grace by Alessandra de Rossi), who fights nature, poverty and the apathy and cynicism of the people to bring about a change in an obscure village in Luzon. In the process she touches the hearts and minds of her students and their parents and inspires them to rise above their humble beginnings.

There are many vignettes in the film that will sometimes make the viewer laugh and sometimes make her cry. Some samples:

—Because two brothers share one school uniform, only one of them can attend choir practice at a time. Gil M. Portes, the film's director, said this is based on a true story told to him by a niece who taught in a remote village. She later bought clothes for the two brothers.

—The acting principal sells ice candy to the pupils to be able to send her own children to college. Who does not know of public school teachers selling *longanisa* or *tocino* or garments in school to augment their meager salary?

—A teacher is so dumb that she says the blank for "sex" in a personnel form may be answered with one of three initials: "M-W-F." In class she says the plural of "potato" is "potatos" and that of "tomato" is "tomatos." The correct spellings, of course, are "potatoes" and "tomatoes." These may be exaggerations, but they are painfully close to the truth. Some teachers are so incompetent and ignorant that it is no wonder many students are miseducated.

—Several boys in the class are told by their fathers to absent themselves during the planting season so that they can help in the field. The mother of a girl tells her daughter to stop schooling because she has already learned the rudiments of reading and writing, and anyway, she's good only for marriage and raising children.

—A teacher holds classes under the trees and once under a waiting shed. The very few textbooks available are shared by the students. The new textbooks are stored, to be brought out for "display" only when the supervisors visit the school.

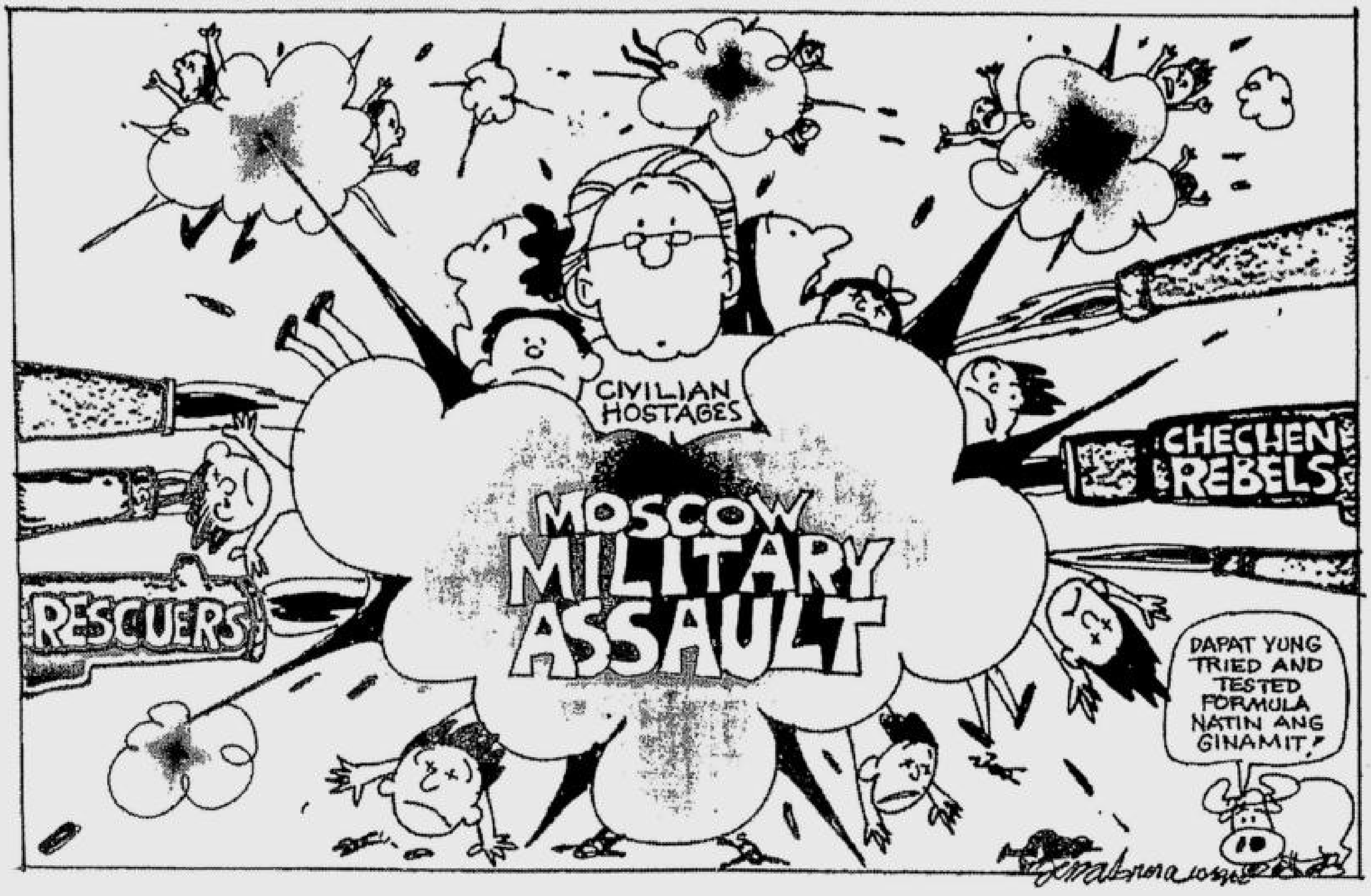
—The pay of teachers is delayed for months, and so they have to get salary advances from the village "Bombay" (Indian merchant) at a 10 percent interest.

And so forth, and so on. It's all so familiar to the Filipino viewer. It's so laughably painful it wants to make you cry. In a simplistic capsule, that's the state of Philippine education; that's the state of Philippine society.

But to the village in the movie—the fictional Malawig—the teacher Melinda brings a ray of hope. This she does by coaching her students to sing and compete in the district singing contest. We do not want to spoil the fun for you by telling you the ending. But it is an ending that is so uplifting and heartwarming that it has brought many audiences to tears.

"Only the rich may dream," one of the pupils says. But the teacher says that everybody can dream—and act—to bring his dreams to realization. She tells her pupils that they can always strive to lift themselves out of the rut of poverty. She shows the parents that they have to break out of their shell of cynicism and hopelessness if they want to break the vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty. This is also a message for the entire nation.

Director Portes said he was confident that his film would change the face of Philippine cinema. We hope that this film, which was shown at the recent launching of the Education Revolution, would do more than that. We hope that more students, teachers, government officials, civic and business leaders will watch it. It will give them some cause for optimism for our country which is so rich in natural and human resources and yet so poor in hope. What our nation needs now, more than ever, is hope, optimism, a "can-do" attitude that will lift us out of the despond of poverty, misery and mental and spiritual paralysis.



Why doesn't GMA just fire them?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

KAPALMUKS talaga! The directors of the Public Estates Authority (PEA), responsible for the most expensive stretch of road in the world, refuse to resign although President Macapagal-Arroyo had told them in no uncertain terms that she would like them to leave. Don't they know shame? Filipinos have two words for it: *Walang hiya.* Whatever happened to the Filipino virtue of *delicadeza*?

In clinging to their posts, the PEA directors said they would first clear themselves of the charges against them before resigning. They're not being denied that. They can still clear their names even after they have left the PEA. The investigation will not stop just because they resign. If they're innocent, their names will be cleared whether or not they're still in the PEA.

Director Rodolfo Tuazon, who has been making the rounds of the breakfast forums and talk shows, even splits hairs to defend their mysterious lust for the PEA. The President did not ask them to resign, he reasoned out, adding: "What she said was that she would be happy if they would resign."

Well, don't they want to make the President happy by resigning? It takes so little to make her happy: just a resignation letter. God knows that with all the brickbats and problems she's getting, she deserves some happiness now and then. Don't they even want to give her that?

The PEA directors are presidential appointees. They serve at the pleasure of the President. When she has lost confidence in them, they have to go. And when she said she would be happy if they would resign, it is a clear sign that she has no more confidence in them and she has no more use for them. She could have been more brutal by telling them to resign outright. Or she could have fired them. But she chose to be more polite.

And the PEA directors are using that politeness to defy her.

Being a former congressman, Tuazon is adept at making black look white and a crooked line straight. "She didn't really tell us to resign," he reasoned out. "Besides, we have a term of office." Leave it to an ex-congressman to dredge up excuses.

Even if you have a term of office, when the appointing power indicates that she no longer has confidence in you, it is time to leave. It means she has withdrawn your appointment and you have no more right to your position. You owe that position to her and when she wants to take it back, you have to give it back to her. Or else the people will think that the position is so lucrative that you don't want to leave it. Or that you can't get another job like it.

So here's a message to the PEA directors: More important than a position and its perks are self-respect, dignity, honor. Don't exchange them for the money that position brings. You can still clear yourselves even if you no longer occupy that position. Junk it and save your honor.

So go!

* * *

Last Oct. 23, a letter by one Peter Wallace was published in the Letters section, inviting me to see the Caliraya spillway now under construction by CBK Corp., a subsidiary of Impsa of Argentina. I have written negatively about that spillway which suggest, Wallace wrote, that "somebody has a grudge against the company and is waging a vendetta."

This is my reply:

Thank you for inviting me to see the "new" Caliraya spillway in the light of the "false" information you think I have been getting on the subject.

My sources are reliable and I am certainly aware that CBK Corp., the contractor, is working hard to complete the structure.

However, you miss the point in my column. I questioned not the ongoing construction of the spillway but the issuance of the certificate of completion of the rehabilitation of Kalayaan I and the subsequent waiver of completion of remaining "common activities" by Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga.

My question is based on the premise that as a consequence of the issuance of the said certificates, CBK Corp. is getting fully as if the rehabilitation of Kalayaan I was fully done. In addition, the "common activities" waived by Gonzaga included the rehabilitation of the "old" spillway and the construction of the "new" spillway.

I clearly pointed out that by waiving CBK Corp.'s obligation to complete the rehabilitation of the "old" spillway and construction of a "new" one, Gonzaga had jeopardized the safety of the plant and the surrounding communities.

It is only right that CBK Corp. is constructing the "new" spillway. After all, CBK Corp. is already getting paid for it even before it is completed.

So there you are have it, Mr. Wallace. The column was not about the quality of the "new" spillway being constructed. It was about the need for CBK Corp. to rehabilitate the "old" spillway as it constructs the "new." Otherwise, innocent lives and property will be put in jeopardy.

Dirt bags

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THERE was an interesting item last week that that we can't let pass without comment. That is the report that the Philippines has climbed up from 35th or so among the most corrupt countries in the world to No. 11. It comes from Transparency International. Occupying the top spot is Bangladesh, where apparently everything now is for sale. But not much farther down is our very own "Perlas ng Silangan," where everyone is trying to steal, pawn or fence the pearl. We share the dubious ranking with countries like Pakistan, which probably not coincidentally has become a pillar of America's war against terrorism.

Interestingly, Transparency International puts the blame for our corruption not just on public officials but on businessmen as well. It's not just that public officials plunder the national coffers, it says, it's that businessmen use all sorts of ruses to get around the rules and rip off the public. A good point, and one that corrects a completely one-sided view of things, namely, that business is merely compelled to yield to crooked bureaucratic impositions. This suggests that the relationship is more of collusion than coercion.

Now, doubtless everyone will have his theory about why corruption persists, or indeed grows worse, and suggestions about how to cure it. I at least am sure about what not to do, which is to employ more authoritarian methods to curb it.

I say this because, quite remarkably, each time you hear the issue of corruption raised, people take it into their heads to suggest that we go the way of Lee Kuan Yew. That has been so even way back in Cory Aquino's time when, in the face of the equally mind-boggling pillage wreaked by the government that came after the martial law regime, abetted in no small way by the threat of coups, some groups expressed a longing for "enlightened despotism" such as obtained in Singapore. As someone put it, during martial law, you had to worry only about one crook; afterward you had to worry about many. Democracy had merely helped to democratize corruption.

Arguably, Singapore is squeaky clean, in more ways than one. But at the very least, I don't know that that blessing is worth the curse of the lack of basic freedoms. In any case, Lee Kuan Yew is obviously the exception rather than the rule. Most despots, as our very own Marcos proves, are not disposed to making their countries rich, they are disposed to making themselves rich. Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely—invariably in the most literal of ways.

But infinitely more than that, it misses the point about corruption. I have always maintained that there is only one sure way to stop corruption. That is not by having more laws, that is not by having more watchdogs, that is not by having more judges to punish the ungodly. Of course they help, at least where the watchdogs and judges themselves are not part of the problem. But they do not strike at the heart of the matter. In the end, the only thing that can really stop corruption is the people themselves.

My belief in this has been reinforced by visits abroad. What prevents US officials from stealing is a public, aided in no small way by a press, that will not forgive anyone who does so. What prevents German candidates from rigging the elections is a public, armed in no small way by a glorious tradition, that will not abide anyone doing so. Indeed, these things have been so internalized that the very concept of cheating in elections has become entirely alien. As I found out firsthand when I asked a German analyst a question about cheating during elections: he thought it an almost novel idea.

That's what democracy is in the end: an empowered community, a vibrant citizenry, a strong people. The essence of democracy is not a government benevolently consenting to civil liberties and human rights, it is a citizenry unequivocally demanding them. The essence of democracy is not a government resolving to do its job, it is a citizenry requiring nothing less. That is clearly what we do not have, our claims to democracy notwithstanding.

As I've argued before, corruption rages in this country simply because we do not attach any opprobrium to it. To begin with, we have no concept of taxpayers' money, a sacred thing with Americans who will not have anyone mess around with it. Our concept of taxes is that they are tribute, they belong to public officials. That is the premise of the sign in waiting sheds, bridges and roads that says, "Courtesy of Mayor So-and-So." Those things were given to you not because government owes them to you, the taxpayer, but because, as more recent signs say, "GMA cares." You will not see those signs in GMA's favorite country, which is America.

And though the press routinely exposes scams, no public reprehension dogs the scammers. Marcos in part had something to do with that. Before martial law, public officials did smart from being depicted by the press as being "*buwaya*" and threatened to sue for libel. After martial law, public officials just smartly laughed off the accusation and threatened to sow more mayhem. But Marcos merely added to a problem which was already there. Even before martial law, the public easily forgave, or worse admired, in private the people they scorned in public, and begged them to be *ninongs* at their children's baptisms or weddings.

That is the heart of the problem, that is the heart of the solution. We can have more watchdogs and harsher punishment for crooks, but none of that will matter if we do not develop a culture that makes big-time crooks in particular the social equivalent of lepers rather than implicit role models.

The day we stop shrugging off theft and saying, "What else is new?" is the day we start having something new.

VP to LGUs: Go ahead, borrow on your own

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VICE President Teofisto Guingona, who was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as acting president in her absence, recently met with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and acting Finance Secretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr. with an interesting idea, about which they were said to be enthusiastic. Actually the Vice President articulated this idea soon after he left the foreign office, but it seems firmer now in his mind. He feels very strongly that the budget deficit, now standing at P166 billion and growing at an alarming rate, could be reduced by about P50 billion. How? By harnessing local government units and encouraging them to undertake projects identified in the budget, on their own, including raising the funds themselves.

* * *

Guingona says that many functions being undertaken by the national government were theoretically devolved to the LGUs when the Local Government Code of 1991 was enacted. Unfortunately the LGUs have not assumed those functions, perhaps out of timidity, fear or lack of motivation. One such function is for the LGUs to develop their own economic projects, raise the necessary funds through loans, and set the terms and conditions of payment, through the use of the special economic fund collected from local taxes.

One source of funding Guingona recommends is the P100 billion in official development assistance (ODA) from Japan, Europe and China. The idea is for the LGUs to stop being a burden to the national government and prevent the huge budgetary deficit from further ballooning through the principle of "subsidiarity." Meaning, that the state should not do for athe people what they can do for themselves.

* * *

The Vice President has been going around the country coaxing the LGUs to assume this responsibility and empower themselves, and get away from "too much politics." When he left the DFA, he promised that he would not "fade away" but instead offer our people something solid. Guingona is now reviving the old "Bandila" movement that he organized with other street parliamentarians in the dying years of the Marcos regime, right after Ninoy's assassination. He finds the response from the grassroots heartwarming.

* * *

Key leaders of the semiconductor and electronics industry, which is driving our economic growth, providing 70 percent of our exports, are scheduled to accompany President Macapagal to Silicon Valley to meet with leaders of the electronics industry in the United States. The RP-based leaders, led by Texas Instruments chief Norberto Viera, president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi), are keen on providing their counterparts with an "industry roadmap" of the future direction of RP electronics to encourage more US businessmen to invest in RP.

* * *

Let's hope that their efforts and the President's will result in new investments from the Silicon Valley industries, for we need them badly in this highly competitive age. At the recent forum sponsored by Seipi in connection with its anniversary, Bong Belen, chair and CEO of Fastech Synergy, pointed out that most of the 700 RP-based electronics companies have been here for some time already and are just expanding their businesses. He pointed out that "start-up companies" are not locating here, which means that the newer technologies are not coming over. Why this is so should be looked into, the execs stressed, even as they emphasized that the "great Filipino electronics worker" is a "gold mine." They also pointed out the need for a campaign to build "centers of excellence" that could be led by the electronics industry. Amen to that.

* * *

Yesterday I cited electronics executive Kenneth Ellett's opinion that there is a need to show more political will even in small things like catching smoke-belching and *colorum* buses. Noting that half of the buses in Metro Manila are said to be *colorum*, he said these were contributing to the traffic and the pollution which have a lot of impact on foreign investors.

I checked out Ellett's complaint with Assistant Transportation Secretary Roberto Lastimoso and he stressed that since last Sept. 2, the Land Transportation Office has been conducting a "*puspusan*" campaign to apprehend vehicles for the twin offenses. He said the Development Bank of the Philippines approved three years ago a P77 million grant for the LTO's anti-emission campaign, but to date only P15 million has been released. With that money, the LTO bought 97 opacity meters (each worth about P280,000), and 84 gas analyzers (worth about P250,000 each). Lastimoso said they have apprehended and impouanded about 1,500 vehicles already.

* * *

Worth mentioning is the fact that citizens have gotten involved in the anti-pollution campaign. For instance, the Doña Marta Hernandez Foundation, founded by the owners of Victory Liner, recently donated two state-of-the-art emission testing machines worth over half a million pesos: one to the DOTC-Cordillera Autonomous Region and the other to the City of Manila. The donation was facilitated by civic leader Elisa Salapantan. The idea is to help preserve Baguio City's eco-system by setting up of key testing areas there as well as to help clean up Manila's polluted air.

As for the colorum vehicles, Lastimoso pointed out that the usual alibi is that the plates were lost. The LTO now issues improvised plates and bus owners have 15 days to get regular plates. Lastimoso said the LTO has concentrated its campaign on Edsa first, and now there are fewer vehicles running without license plates. But much more needs to be done regarding colorum buses and smoke belchers.

Capitalism 'enriches' Marxism

FEATURE

Erin Prelypchan

HANGZHOU—Karl Marx would be rolling in his grave if he knew what was going on at Chinese chemical and farming group Transfar. About 150 employees at the 16-year-old private firm on China's rich eastern coast meet each month to discuss gravely how Marxist thought—which fervently opposes private property—can help them become better capitalists.

"Communist Party membership serves two functions in a private company," says Chen Jie, who proudly hands visitors to Transfar's showpiece farm a business card proclaiming him to be both the group's vice president and party secretary. "Communist Party members are model workers for the other employees, and its organization helps corporate solidarity. It improves the quality of work."

Transfar added a party committee to its management structure in 1995 and now 10 percent of its 1,500 employees attend monthly party meetings. Chen says those discussions yield some of the company's best ideas, such as a strategic decision in 1996 to move away from specialized chemicals and into detergent and soap.

Transfar says it controls 30 percent of China's market for textile dyes, and its smart greenhouses outside the eastern industrial city of Hangzhou are filled with row upon row of poinsettias. Their color, appropriately, is a rich, dark red.

"Capitalism develops and enriches traditional Marxism," said the 37-year-old vice president Chen, a party member for 16 years, with no trace of irony.

Chen's is one of a stunning variety of interpretations that private businessmen in China—once denounced as capitalist exploiters—are giving to the changing political landscape which Beijing calls "socialism with Chinese characteristics." Politics and business are set to become even closer at the 16th Party Congress opening Nov. 8, where entrepreneurs will be enshrined for the first time in a party that swept to power in 1949 on the strength of peasants and workers.

At the congress, President Jiang Zemin's "Three Represents" theory is expected to be written into the party charter—advocating that the party represents the society's most advanced productive forces. That is code for entrepreneurs and other strata of modern Chinese society.

Private business is driving China's booming economic growth, and now accounts for 50 to 70 percent of GDP while state-owned enterprises from the planned-economy era struggle with bloated payrolls and poor management.

In Zhejiang province, a nexus of Chinese private enterprise, businessmen say they're getting the recognition they deserve. Many of them have been in the party for years anyway—some party members who drifted into the private sector, and others businessmen with an eye to political contacts.

"I was a capitalist first, but I joined the party because it's a Communist country. It makes it easier to do business," said China's fourth richest man Lu Guanqiu, whose car parts firm the Wanxiang Group is a few minutes down the road from Transfar. The former peasant started Wanxiang Group as a bicycle repair shop, turning it into a conglomerate with 10 billion yuan ($1.21 billion) in assets, 8.6 billion yuan ($1.04 billion) in profits last year, and a subsidiary listed on China's stock market.

The boisterous 57-year-old Lu perhaps embodies the contradictions inherent when the party enters business, and when business enters the party. Lu, whom Forbes magazine estimates to have wealth of $570 million, has been a delegate to two previous party congresses and now attends annual parliament sessions where his pet issue is tax evasion. Men once a few rungs above Lu on Forbes's list of China's wealthiest men are under arrest or on the run for dodging taxes.

But Lu is not your typical socialist revolutionary. "The gap between rich and poor is getting wider and wider," said Lu. "It's a universal problem, not just in China. But it's not my obligation as a corporate leader to solve it. I think I should leave that problem to the politicians. They have always been open to my ideas."

In an industrial park across town, another corporation draws a clearer line between politics and business. Nasdaq-listed telecoms company UTStarcom, founded by Chinese born, Western-educated tech buffs, doesn't know how many of its employees are party members, and chief operating officer Johnny Chou said he doesn't much care. "It never even entered my mind," said Chou, standing on one of UTStarcom's shop floors in Hangzhou as workers in lab coats assembled circuit boards for its wildly successful alternative to cellular phone systems.

"I never even asked my senior management whether they were party members," said Chou, who was born on China's eastern coast but is now a citizen of the United States. "I just do business, and as long as it doesn't interfere with business, I don't care."

REUTERS

Another point of view

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

YOU have often heard it said that history is written by the victors. The Spanish-American War was no different.

But here is a digest by a lieutenant in the Armada, Guillermo Garcia Parreño, that gives the defeated's point of view:

Two hours of uneven combat on the first of May were enough to decide the outcome of the campaign and the fate of the Spanish Empire. Once the Spanish squadron was destroyed in Cavite, the American admiral (then a commodore) could tell his government without boasting that "morally they were the owners of the Philippines." Had Dewey been aware of the dire straits Spain found itself in politically and economically, he could have exercised his arrogance to the extreme and proclaimed himself the conqueror of Spain. The Pacific was the real theater of war, and in the Pacific, Spain's power was destroyed.

The day after their victory, the Americans commenced to demonstrate their meager respect for international rights and their manner of sweeping aside whatever stood in the way of their enterprise. The British consul presented to the governor general himself the message of the commodore that the United States had undertaken the war for humanitarian reasons. He wished to avoid bloodshed and handed over documents written in pencil and signed aboard the Olympia by the former American consul in Manila, Mr. Williams, urging the personnel of the destroyed squadron to surrender, requesting the number of ships and elements of naval combat he had to dispose of and an acknowledgement of the blockade. The governor was further warned that if he did not accede to these demands, Manila would be razed.

Governor General Agustin replied the commodore he could raze the city if he pleased.

Lieutenant Parreno told the British consul, "Where has the chief of the enemy (American) squadron seen the day after a rout the demand for the unconditional surrender of prisoners who managed to escape and are beyond the enemy's reach?" He should have taken them prisoner during the encounter if it had been possible, he said. Once they found themselves under the shelter of Spanish defenses, the Spanish navy men are not prisoners of the American squadron. If the fate of Manila is dependent on whether the launch intended for the service of the governor-general is not turned over, it seems incredible that those pretending to be waging a war for humanitarian reasons are disposed to raze a populous city because some small things of little value are denied them.

With the mediation of the British consul, it was agreed that the American squadron would not open hostilities or attack Fort Santiago if the Spanish did not open fire or improve their defenses. Neither would the plaza initiate hostilities unless attacked. The Americans complied by disembarking in Pineda (Pasay) and installing formidable batteries in Maytubig. But they opened fire on July 31.

According to Nicolas de la Peña, writing in 1898, the war was fought to find markets for American products, to enlarge their commerce and add to their wealth. General Merritt insisted on referring to the defeated Spaniards as their prisoners and forced them to turn over their flags, weapons, etc. There may have been a disagreement among them as General Green agreed that the Spaniards could keep their banners and that they owed them all the honors of war. But after these discussions, General Otis returned and referred to them as prisoners in his official letters just the same. (Parreño and the rest of the Spanish populace obviously were not privy to the terms of the mock war that ensued.)

By June some cruisers of the American squadron had dedicated themselves to making suspicious excursions throughout the islands, augmented by Filipino rebels. The coasts of the Visayas and Luzon as well as other islands were infested with pirate ships. Because of this situation, a ship belonging to Tabacalera anchored in Aparri was ordered by management to take precautions and leave for Formosa and await instructions there.

The ship left Aparri on July 3, within a few hours found itself in open sea. While the captain and the European officials were eating lunch, 30 rebels led by the 2nd engineer Vicente Catala, a Cuban, boarded the ship and assassinated the officials. Catala was declared an admiral of the Filipino Navy, the flag of the revolution was raised, the name "Compania" was erased and "de Filipinas" was painted in its place. Then the rebels headed for Cavite, reaching there on July 6.

There they reported to Dewey. Instead of shooting them immediately, he approved of their conduct and allowed the ship to be armed with cannons taken from the Spanish cruiser, Marquez del Duero. (The author says that when they heard about the incident, they were incredulous. Evidently they were ignorant of the adage that all's fair in love and war or to the victor belong the spoils.) Even if they believed Admiral Dewey to be capable of anything, they visited the company offices to verify the story as sworn to by the Chinese cook who was not killed because he spoke English and they intended to use his services as interpreter.

(In case you're still uneasy about the morality of war and whether wars are just or not, there are those who maintain that war is never moral and always unjust. Just bear in mind who's writing the account of the war.)

A battle won

YOUNG BLOOD

Carla M.F. Yabot

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

JUST two days and I'll be home, I thought as I resumed the countdown to completion of my assignment in Negros Occidental. It was Thursday, 7 p.m., and I decided to call home to inform my parents of my arrival.

My sister answered the phone. "*Wala sina Mommy dito. Tinakbo si Daddy sa* hospital *kagabi,*" she said, trying to hide her distress.

I put the phone down and immediately felt weak in the knees. Two weeks earlier, Dad had experienced pain in his gallbladder. He was scheduled for an operation to remove his gallbladder that weekend.

He's going to be all right, I thought. Right, Lord?

I met Mom and Dad at the hospital that Saturday afternoon. Dad had just gone through a CT scan.

The shock came on Monday. I arrived home from work at 6:30 in the evening. My sister immediately led me to our room.

"*Ate,*" she began, "*may* cancer *si* Daddy. Please don't mention it to anyone. Even Daddy doesn't know it yet. They're taking the tumor out tomorrow. It has gotten so big. Mom wants all of us to be there."

I didn't say a word. Cancer, I've always believed, was a sickness that only happened to distant relatives and acquaintances. How could my dad have it? I cried the whole night.

If there was anything harder than the initial shock of learning the bad news, it was waiting for the operation to finish. It was pure torture especially when the expected four hours extended to seven, nine and finally 11. And then Dad had to stay in the recovery room for three hours more.

While waiting for Daddy to recover, one of the assistants called us and asked if we wanted to see the tumor, the gall stones and the other organs that were taken out from him. Aside from the tumor, his gallbladder and appendix have been taken out too. "It was a wholesale operation," as Daddy would joke later on.

Our anxiety and uncertainty vanished when Daddy was wheeled out of the operating room at a little past 10. All of us—meaning our family and a few close friends and relatives—were standing in two straight rows, lining the entrance. As the doors swung open, Daddy's feet were twitching and his eyes were blinking profusely. When he saw all of us smiling and waving, he raised his arm and uttered a barely audible "Hi!" He continued waving as if he were a politician greeting his constituents. We laughed and couldn't suppress our tears of relief as we followed him to his room.

That night my sister and an aunt were tasked to stay with him. As I went near him to say goodbye, he raised his hand and motioned me to touch it, saying, "Give me five." I clasped his hand and held it tightly. Just then I saw a tear fall from his eye and I guessed that it was because he saw my tears, too.

Cancer patients and their families go through a series of emotions after they know the real score. Denial is the initial reaction, and it later turns into frustration, evolves into anger and finally settles down in acceptance.

I skipped the anger stage and, by the grace of God, resolved to accept whatever was His will. I thought I did not have any other choice specially when I learned that his was a terminal case.

God in all His goodness did not allow our family to succumb in defeat. My dad lived, although he was not as well as he used to.

We fought a hard and arduous battle, never giving up for we knew God was on our side.

Dad had chemotherapy sessions monthly and he was the only chemo patient I knew whose hair remained as thick as Erap's. He recovered his old weight and began to drive himself to work.

Impossible? I have long ago erased that from my vocabulary.

Epilogue

IT was Feb. 23, 2000, a Wednesday. This was a special day for me. I had slept very well the night before and woke up at around 2:15 a.m. I would not be able to sleep again for the next 24 hours.

I picked my Daddy's coat and tie that day. I chose a dark blue suit over a light blue polo shirt and a red and blue printed tie. I had never done this before and it was a thrill playing fashion consultant to my Dad, a very good dresser.

The moon and the stars glistened that very early morning as I stepped out of the house. I saw a flower bud in my mother's garden.

I was driving on Edsa at around 4 a.m. and the absence of traffic was exhilarating. I hadn't experienced the same feeling for a long time. Slowly, morning broke and I noticed that the sun was shining more brightly. The birds seemed to be chirping more sweetly too. .

Later on, I saw a number of exquisitely arranged flowers of all sizes, shapes and colors. And I met some very nice people as the day progressed.

The days that followed became more and more interesting and delightful. I met more nice people, and I met friends I had not seen in a long time. Everyone smiled at me. Some shook my hand and others gave me a hug. It felt so good to hear my name being called and to be touched by people who cared. Never in my life had I experienced so much love, so much concern and so much comfort as during those five days of father's wake.

People said it was inevitable. How many people with terminal colon cancer which had metastasized to the liver survived longer than a year? But this was not a mere statistic. It was planned. It had a purpose. It all happened in God's perfect time.

Dad's trip to heaven was everything he would have wanted it to be. In came early in the morning and it was received with serenity—no hysterical crying, just one last breath. He had joined his Creator peacefully without the fanfare he was usually known for.

He was ready. He dreamed about it and spoke about it. He would murmur, "Lord, take me. I love you. Forgive me. Please take me in your arms."

Whenever I heard him say those words, I consoled myself with the thought that when he went he would be with the Lord. I just was not sure if I was ready to let go. I was afraid that letting go would mean giving up, and I was not giving up.

We had come so far. There were still places to go to. Words to be spoken. Stories to be told. Lessons to be learned. He was only 59. But since when did we measure the quality of life by the number of years a person lived? That would seem as if people who reached the age of 80 or 90 or beyond had more reason to die.

My dad lived a full life. All the nice people I met during his wake confirmed it. Many said my dad was their mentor, their booster and their strong leader.

"*Laban tayo!*" my youngest brother heard my dad telling him on the last night our family was together. There he was helpless in his deathbed exhorting us to keep fighting.

That night was actually one of the best times. My mom thought it was a good time for all of us to talk to my dad, ask forgiveness for whatever we did that hurt him and to tell him how much we loved him.

It practically took me the whole night to summon the words and tell him, "I love you." It was true of my brothers and sister as well. But the fact is, we were able to say it. The best part was that my dad who had never expressed his feelings did the same thing.

When my dad joined his Creator three days later, his mission had been completed. It was the perfect time to go.

Carla M.F. Yabot, 25, works as a public affairs officer.

Gov't never cheated foreign retirees

A FRIEND copied Neal Cruz's column "Is RP gov't cheating retired foreigners here? " and sent it to me because the INQUIRER is hard to get on Camiguin Island.

My wife and I are foreigners living here under the umbrella of the Philippine Retirement Authority since May 2000. We could not believe our eyes when we read the column.

We were never cheated by the government. Without exception, the PRA responded to all our questions and requests quickly and efficiently—an exception in the Philippines. All contractual requirements, theirs and ours, were met to our mutual satisfaction.

We were informed by the PRA that Prama had filed a case. We were also given the PRA's side of the controversy at that time. For lack of information from the other side we will not comment on the court's verdict.

It is not true that the $50,000 deposit can only be invested in Filipino companies. It can be used to build a residence (like we did), buy golf club shares, and if the retiree is a former Filipino, to buy lands.

We paid our yearly dues amounting to P2,000 for Prama to the PRA until we were informed that this was no longer mandatory.

We never heard from Prama at all and considered the yearly dues to be a tax in disguise.

Five months ago we were contacted for the first time since June 2000 by Prama, which requested us to become donors/members. Now that membership was no longer mandatory, they woke up...to ask for money.

On April 27, 2002, we wrote Prama to say that we would consider becoming members, provided they supplied the following information first: bylaws of charter; the composition of the Board of Directors or Trustees; how members are represented in that board; and how general meetings will be organized. We also asked for reports on the general meetings during its first seven years and financial statements.

The response we got was *wala*, zero, zip, *nada*. Maybe Prama did not like our questions.

We felt it necessary to inform you about this. We have the impression that you were incompletely or erroneously informed by. Should our assessment be wrong, we would consider it a favor to be corrected.

—GEORGES L. DAVERVELDT,
Provincial Road,
Yumbing/Mambajao,
Camiguin 9100

Let corrupt cower in fear of Fernando

ADD my voice to those who support MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's crusade of giving back the sidewalks to pedestrians. The kind of political will he is showing is really what this country needs. We need leaders like him. My unsolicited advice to those insensate critics who noisily oppose his every course of action is: "Go to you know where."

I am firm in my belief that given the chance to finish his work, Fernando will make Metro Manila the pride of the nation and a better place to live in.

After his current assignment is successfully done, let him wield his ax from bureau to bureau from department to department, starting with customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Let corrupt officials in these offices shiver in fear of Fernando (not FPJ).

This is my response to Neal H. Cruz's call in his column last Oct. 3 for the silent majority to stand, speak and be counted. BF really needs support to add vigor to his campaign.

—PAOLLENNO E. SICAP, Olala
Village, Brgy. Magsaysay, 4305
Unisan, Quezon

Sex is for procreation

THIS is about the arguments of Rina Jimenez-David in Dong Puno's TV program on the subject of family planning last Oct. 15. She kept repeating that the use of contraceptives should be left to the conscience of the individual.

While it is true that God gave everyone a free will, the stand of the Church is that the use of contraceptives is immoral and an offense to God. Those who practice it are gambling they will not have to answer to God for it in the end.

A layman should not rely only on his own conscience but should follow the guidance of the Church which proclaims only after exhaustive study. For example, an individual may think he is justified to kill another person under certain circumstances, such as, say, in euthanasia or in the case of the woman who killed her children because she could not feed them.

I believe the purpose of sex is procreation, not gratification. Most people think it is right to have sex any time they want. As someone said, it does not even come to the minds of most people to control themselves. Their alibi is that they are expressing their love but the reality is, in most cases, they are indulging in physical pleasure.

If natural family planning fails in isolated cases and produces offspring, it should be considered the will of the Lord. The couple should be responsible for the consequences of their action. Nevertheless, they should enjoy the children as God's gift to them.

But how will they feed, clothe and shelter them? In faith, they should ask God for their needs (John 15:7, 16:23-24).

—G.M. DE VERA JR., 101 Panay
Avenue, 1103 Quezon City

Isn't there a ban on loud music?

THERE is or there was an ordinance prohibiting smoking and the playing of deafening music in public vehicles (jeepneys, in particular). Perhaps the ordinance has been suspended or repealed, since the playing of loud music and smoking are once more rampant. Such flagrant disregard of ordinances only show our lack of discipline.

—VICTOR MURILLO, 658
Maharlika St., Plainview 1550,
Mandaluyong City

Corporate governance

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AS the word goes, "governance" is often associated with governments. Lately though, there have been more references in the mass media to something called "corporate governance," which broadly defined refers to the way companies handle managerial and financial matters.

The need for good corporate governance has become more pressing as more companies list themselves on the stock exchange. As the public buys their stocks, they demand accountability and transparency, in much the same way they do with government.

While companies used to be rated mainly on ROIs (return on investment) and assets, there's talk now about having "governance grades," with companies evaluated on their board membership, financial procedures and other issues that affect governance.

Bad corporate governance can be disastrous, as we've seen with the Enron and Worldcom accounting scams in the United States, where executives connived with accounting firms to bloat their figures, giving stockholders the impression that the companies were doing well. The padded figures ran into billions of dollars, and when the companies finally collapsed, thousands of people—employees and stockholders—were left out in the cold.

Where are we in the Philippines as regards corporate governance? The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has a Code of Corporate Governance which, according to a press release last week, will have to be implemented "immediately."

Under this code, corporations have to produce manuals of corporate governance, specifying how company policies will serve shareholders' interests. The code has provisions on how a board of directors should be constituted, specifying that there should be at least two independent directors. The idea of having such directors, presumably outside a circle of relatives and close friends, is to maximize transparency and fairness in the company. The code also talks about how company officials and members of the board should conduct themselves, to serve shareholders' interest.

This concern over corporate governance has extended to non-government organizations. Such organizations are very different from businesses in the sense that they are non-profit groups, but there is also a need for accountability with such groups because they operate on donations and grants, both from the government as well as private foundations. When you think about it, the need for good corporate governance is even more pressing with NGOs because they operate almost totally on funds that have been donated, with tremendous public trust involved.

It used to be that NGOs could easily get tax-exempt status from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, meaning donations to such groups could be deducted from income taxes. Now, under new regulations, an NGO must first be accredited with the PCNC (Philippine Council for NGO Certification) to get this tax-exempt status. The accreditation process includes an evaluation of corporate governance.

One of the NGOs I work with recently went through this accreditation, and I found the whole process fascinating. A team of evaluators—all volunteers and usually people from other NGOs that had been previously accredited—came to look at the NGO's financial books, annual reports, operation manuals, even office forms. They also interviewed staff members, directors and people who have benefited from the NGO's activities.

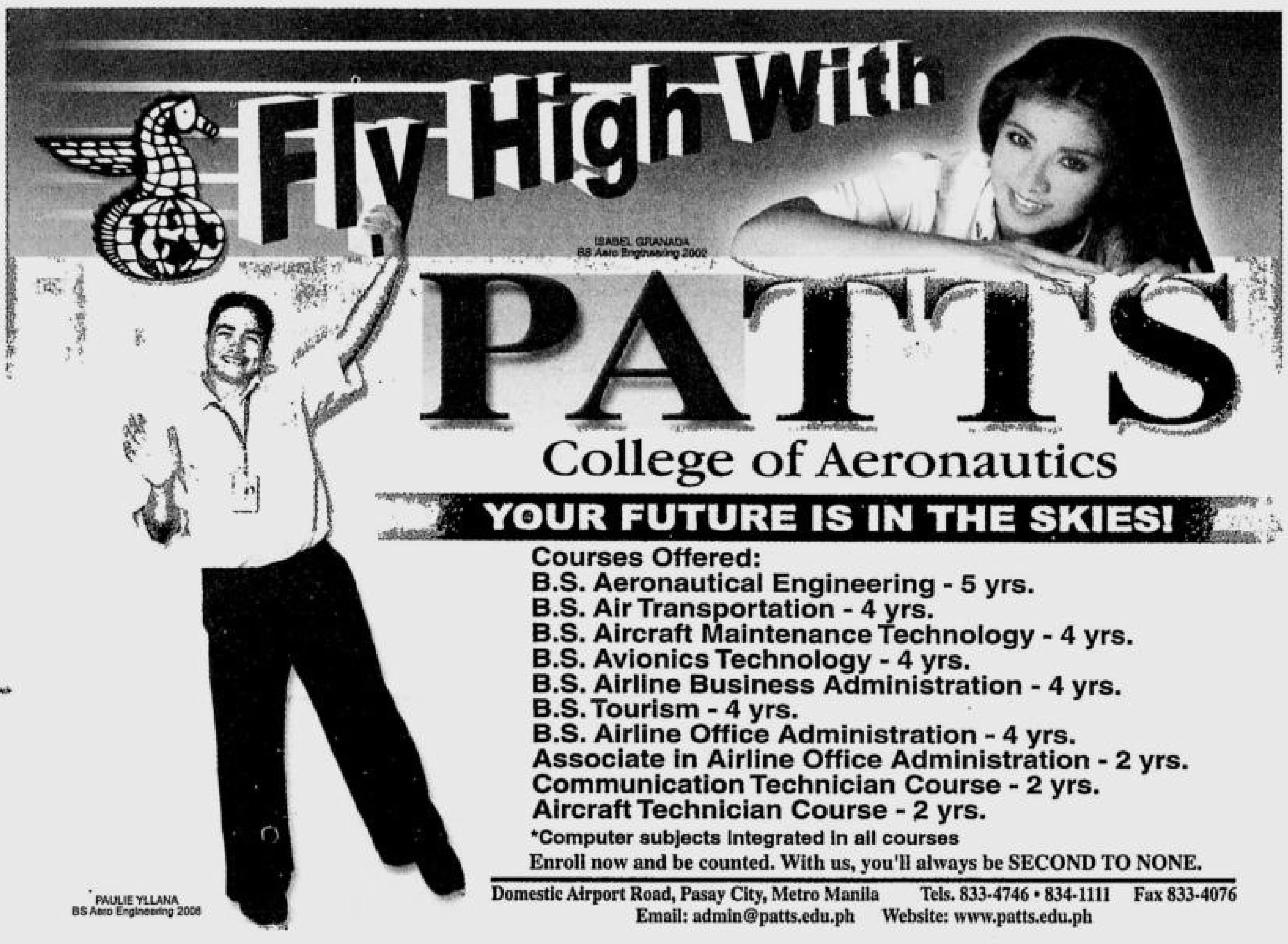
Corporate governance is only one aspect of this accreditation process but it's clearly one of the most important. The evaluators that I met had numerous questions about board members, who they were and what kind of work they were doing, to make sure there would be no conflicts of interest in these board members' dealings with the NGO, whether in terms of selling equipment and supplies, or even being paid for consultancy services.

For NGOs, such evaluations are important, especially since corruption is known to exist in some of these organizations. Some of the corruption is blatant, involving outright fraud and absconding with funds. Other forms of corruption may be more subtle, sometimes even unintentional. One of the most common problems I've seen is that of "mom-and-pop" NGOs, where all the decisions are made by a small circle of relatives running the organization.

What spurred all this interest in corporate governance—whether for corporations or NGOs—was not so much a greater ethical awareness than the financial crunch. Stockholders have been burned by scams and want corporations to be held accountable. Likewise, foundations and donor agencies now face dwindling assets and therefore want to be more selective in the choices of groups to fund. A dishonest NGO means money down the drain.

It's too early to tell if all these evaluation and rating efforts will yield results. Enron, for example, was said to have had an impeccable board of directors and yet it came tumbling down because of corrupt executives and accountants. There's clearly more to corporate governance than the membership of the board of directors, or having manuals of corporate governance.

For the Philippine situation, corporate governance is especially important because so many of our large companies and NGOs are in the frontlines of civil-society movements for social reform. We call on government to shape up and wipe out corruption, but all that will be empty rhetoric if we can't clean up our own organizations.



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TABANG MINDANAW
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

JI aims to create vast Islamic state in Asia, report says

SYDNEY—Muslim radicals linked to al-Qaida want to incorporate northern Australia into a vast Islamic superstate spanning much of southeast Asia, according to a television report aired Monday.

The Australia Broadcasting Corporation quoted a secret Philippine intelligence report in saying the Indonesian group Jemaah Islamiah (JI) was behind the plan for a vast Islamic state.

The ABC report said a two-month investigation by its Four Corners news program found evidence that the alleged spiritual leader of JI, Abu Bakar Bashir, and another radical, Riduan Isamudin, were architects of a terror campaign in Southeast Asia over the past three years as part of the plot.

The intelligence report, which will be detailed in a program to be screened later Monday, came from the Philippines, which is said to have been chosen by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network as its first base in Southeast Asia in 1988.

Bin Laden was said to have sent his brother to the Philippines to gather support as early as 1998.

Philippines' national security adviser Roilo Golez is quoted as saying intelligence indicated Australia was part of al-Qaida's plan for an Asian Islamic superstate including Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"That is something that your intelligence people would have to assess," he said.

"Suffice it to say that the Jemaah Islamiah vision of a pan-Islamic state includes parts of northern Australia. That's what our intelligence indicates."

Australia's nearly 20 million people are overwhelmingly Christian, with a Muslim minority concentrated primarily around Sydney and other major cities in the south of the country.

But the alleged plan by JI still prompted some politicians to demand intensified intelligence about the organization and any of its activities in Australia.

"It's one of the reasons why we also need to bolster and make sure our information gathering is top notch, that our intelligence organizations are functioning well," said Senator Bob Brown, head of the Greens party, told reporters.

"And it's one of those reasons why we're going to need a thoroughgoing inquiry into the functioning of our intelligence organizations in the coming months," he said.

The ABC program was being screened just three days after Philippine authorities filed criminal charges against Riduan Isamudin, a fugitive who is also known as Hambali, and a Malaysian man, Fais bin Abu Bakar Bafana, who has been detained in Singapore.

The indictment accuses Isamudin and Bafana of giving money to local Muslim militants to procure explosives used in a series of Manila bombings almost two years ago that left 22 people dead.

Philippines police chief Colonel Rodolfo Mendoza warns in the program that Australia can expect more attacks from terrorist groups.

JI, which allegedly has deep links with al-Qaida, has been accused of being behind the October 12 Bali bombing in which more than 190 people were killed and hundreds injured.

Australia listed JI as a terrorist organization this weekend after the United Nations added the group to its terrorism blacklist, making it an offense punishable by up to 25 years in prison to help or belong to the movement.

Attorney-General Daryl Williams said on Monday that Australian security forces were hunting for Islamic operatives in the country, but he gave few details.

"We know there are people in Australia who have trained with al-Qaida. We know that people associated with JI have visited Australia," he said on ABC Radio.

"What we can say is that the listing of JI as a terrorist organization under Australian law puts anybody who has any association with it on notice that potentially they are committing a serious crime," he said. *AFP*

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Responding to numerous complaints of air & noise pollution in the Philippine skies, Sen. Robert S. Jaworski, Chairman-Committee on Environment & Natural Resources of the Philippine Senate, made a surprise visit at the IAU Aviation Center. Shown here being assisted by IAU President, Dr. Jovenal B. Toring (right), Sen. Jaworski discusses with aerospace engineering students & airline pilots the subject of minimizing noise pollution from various aircraft that take off and land at Mactan Cebu International Airport.

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Brazil elects first leftist president by wide mandate

SAO PAULO—Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva ushered in a new era as the first elected leftist leader of the Latin American country on Monday, pledging to stand behind his promises of a better life for the nation's millions.

Under a shower of silver confetti and flanked by his wife Marisa, the man most people know simply as Lula promised to work 24 hours a day to improve the lot of Brazil's 170 million people, 50 million of which are poor.

"I'm going to make the biggest effort a human can make so that our people can rise up again, so I can give them back their happiness and hope, make our economy grow again and create wealth and the jobs we so badly need," Lula said.

Below him, tens of thousands of supporters waved red and white flags emblazoned with the star of his Workers' Party on Sao Paulo's Avenida Paulista, Brazil's equivalent to Wall Street.

"Things so far have been easy. The hard part starts now," said Lula, who ran unsuccessfully for president three times previously.

Voters gave Lula 61 percent of their ballots in Sunday's runoff election, handing him a wide enough mandate to shift the course of the world's fourth most populous democracy and its crisis-plagued economy.

Local media said outgoing President Fernando Henrique Cardoso called Lula to congratulate him while words of support poured in from France, Germany and Cuba. The US response was slightly reserved, however.

"The president congratulates the winner of the election and looks forward to working productively with Brazil," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters aboard Air Force One.

In Brazil, the celebrations raged on across the continent-sized nation, from the industrial southeast where the Workers' Party began to the dry northeast and tropical Amazon.

"This is a change for the better because it can't get any worse," said Vladimir G. Carvalho, a 75-year-old doctor watching Lula's celebration speech.

But Lula will take over Brazil at a difficult time, following a decade of unbridled free-market reforms that have shown mixed results.

While Cardoso defeated hyperinflation and attracted tens of billions of dollars in foreign investment for Brazil, unemployment is at its highest level since early 2000 and real wages are falling.

A financial crisis has crippled the currency and sparked fears of a default on Brazil's $260 billion debt.

Society, meanwhile, has also been torn apart by rising crime and drug trafficking in the sprawling cities where plush condominiums overlook teeming slums. Brazil's murder rate is second only to war-torn Colombia.

But the feeling on the street was one of optimism.

"Since 1989, we've been waiting for a working-class president," said Marcson Souza, a 35-year-old plastic surgeon, referring to Lula's first failed bid for the presidency.

A former union leader born to a poor family in Brazil's northeast, Lula's ascent to power marks a historic turn for the country and Latin America, where the military and moneyed elite have traditionally held power. *Reuters*

BRAZILIAN newly elected President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (right) of the Workers' Party, and his wife Marisa, wave to supporters, Oct. 28, while holding Brazil's national flag during a meeting after receiving notification of his victory, in Sao Paulo. AFP

Apec leaders urge N. Korea to scrap nuke arms program

LOS CABOS—Asia-Pacific leaders meeting here Sunday called on North Korea to give up its recently revealed nuclear weapons program, and warned its economic isolation was guaranteed until it did so.

"We call upon (North Korea) to visibly honor its commitment to give up nuclear weapons programs and reaffirm our commitment to ensure a peaceful resolution of this issue," the leaders said in a special statement.

The 21-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), which held a two-day summit here, warned North Korea that its isolation would continue unless it halted the program, revealed to a US envoy during talks in Pyongyang this month.

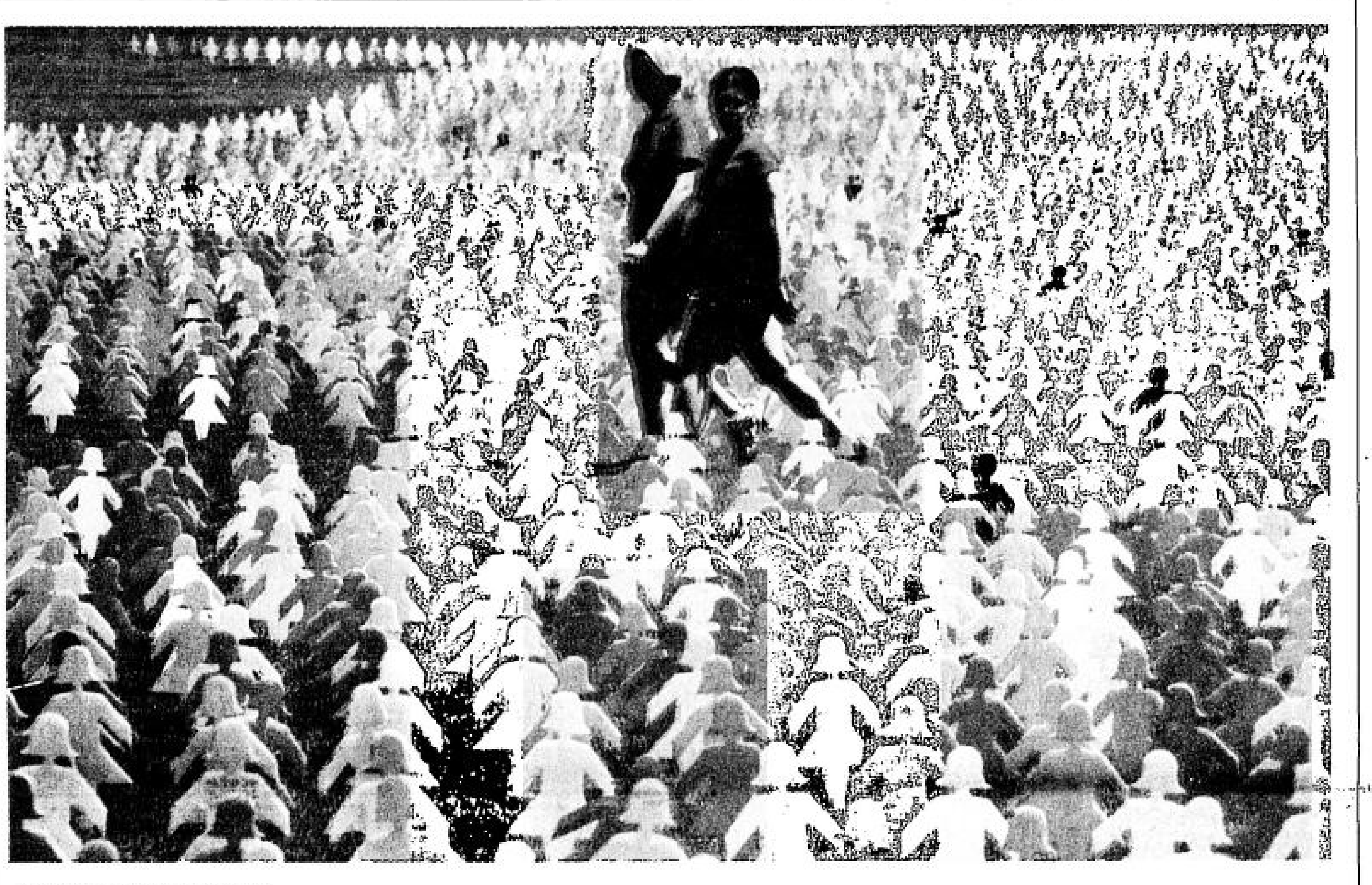
"We note the potential for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to benefit economically from greater participation as a member of the Asia-Pacific community," they said.

"Such a prospect will rest upon a nuclear weapons-free status on the Korean peninsula."

"We reiterate our continued support for the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We uphold that a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula is important to the peace and stability of the peninsula and Northeast Asia and is also in the interests of all members of the region."

Like a previous communique issued by the leaders of the Japan, South Korea and the United States on Saturday, the statement did not contain any specific mention of sanctions Pyongyang would face should it refuse to give up the program.

"North Korea's relations with the international community now rest on North Korea's prompt and visible actions to dismantle its program to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons," Saturday's statement said. *AFP*



CANCER REMINDER

Lunch-time walkers pass through "The Field of Women" at the Domain in Sydney on National Breast Cancer Day, Oct. 28. The 12,500 silhouettes represent those Australian women who are either diagnosed with, or who die of breast cancer each year and was organized by the Breast Cancer Network Australia. AFP

25 killed in Europe's gale-force winds

LONDON—At least 25 people were killed in accidents caused by gale-force winds that swept across western Europe on Sunday and caused widespread damage and transport chaos.

Germany has reported the largest number of confirmed casualties so far, with seven people killed.

A Dutch woman was killed and her partner and child seriously injured when their car was hit by a falling tree in Dusseldorf, western Germany, according to the regional interior ministry.

In the same region, a fireman lost control of his vehicle on the way to an emergency, killing a 43-year-old woman.

Elsewhere in Germany, a 70-year-old man drowned in a flooded sewer and another man killed by a falling roof tile.

Six people are reported to have been killed in Britain, including a 22-year-old woman and her two sisters, aged 13 and nine, who died after a tree fell on their car in the southern city of Oxford.

Two young children and a man were killed separately by falling trees in East Anglia, and at least three more people were injured in the western county of Shropshire.

Four people were reported killed in the Netherlands, where one man died after being hit by a falling tree in the northeastern town of Enschede and another 77-year-old suffered fatal head injuries after he was blown off his feet in the central town of Hilversum.

Two Belgian divers, a 36-year-old woman and a 48-year-old man, died in the Oosterschelde river near the border with Belgium, police said.

Three more people, including two surfers, were still missing at sea off the Dutch coast and a fourth person feared drowned in the southern Westerschelde river. *AFP*

Bush vows US will lead coalition to disarm Iraq if UN fails to approve tough resolution

PHOENIX, Ariz.—An increasingly impatient President George W. Bush vowed on Sunday the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Iraq if the UN Security Council fails to act against Baghdad, as negotiations for a tough new UN resolution enter a decisive week.

France and Russia are leading the opposition to a US

draft resolution. They fear the text could be interpreted as a hidden trigger for military action against Iraq before UN arms inspectors have a chance to account for any of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

The United States is increasingly sounding ready to break off negotiations and put together its own coalition to force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to give up suspected weapons of mass destruction.

"If the United Nations won't act, if Saddam Hussein will not act, if he continues to defy the world, the United States in the name of peace will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein," Bush said to a standing ovation from Republican faithful at a political rally at Phoenix's Dodge Theater.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, who said on Saturday it would not be hard at all to form a coalition against Iraq, told reporters on Bush's plane on Sunday that the UN negotiators are facing a key week.

"We will see what happens in New York. This is the United Nations' chance to do some good or this is the United Nations' chance to fail," Fleischer said.

Fleischer declined to predict what might happen, but called on the United Nations to remember Bush's Sept. 12 speech there, when he said the United States would act on its own if the United Nations did not act.

"It remains to be seen whether the members of the United Nations Security Council have heard that speech, and intend to change their ways, or whether the United Nations Security Council will once again fall into an acquiescent slumber," he said.

Bush's effort appeared to be gaining momentum until Iraq said it would permit UN weapons inspectors to return without conditions. They left in December 1998 on the eve of a US-British bombing raid.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who had urged Bush to resist hawkish members of his administration and go the diplomatic route, signaled that this route was coming to an end. *Reuters*

Material witness could supply motivation for sniper shootings

WASHINGTON—A man who investigators believe may provide crucial details about what prompted the Washington-area sniper shootings was ordered held without bond in Michigan on Sunday as prosecutors where the killings occurred staked their claims to try them.

Nathaniel Osbourne made his initial court appearance before a federal magistrate in Flint, Michigan, and was to be transferred to federal custody in Maryland during the next three days.

FBI agents arrested Osbourne at a friend's house in Flint on Saturday as a material witness to the rampage that left 10 dead and three wounded and terrorized the US capital and its suburbs for three weeks. Osbourne was the co-owner of a 1990 Chevrolet Caprice in which the two sniper suspects were arrested.

The FBI believes Osbourne could supply answers to what motivated alleged snipers John Allen Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, to hunt human quarry from Oct. 2 until their capture on Thursday. Letters demanding $10 million were found at crime scenes.

Under the US Hobbs Act, the federal government could execute convicted killers who attempt to extort money.

Robert Havilland, the assistant US attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, stressed after the court hearing the Jamaican-born Osbourne, 26, was not a suspect in the shootings.

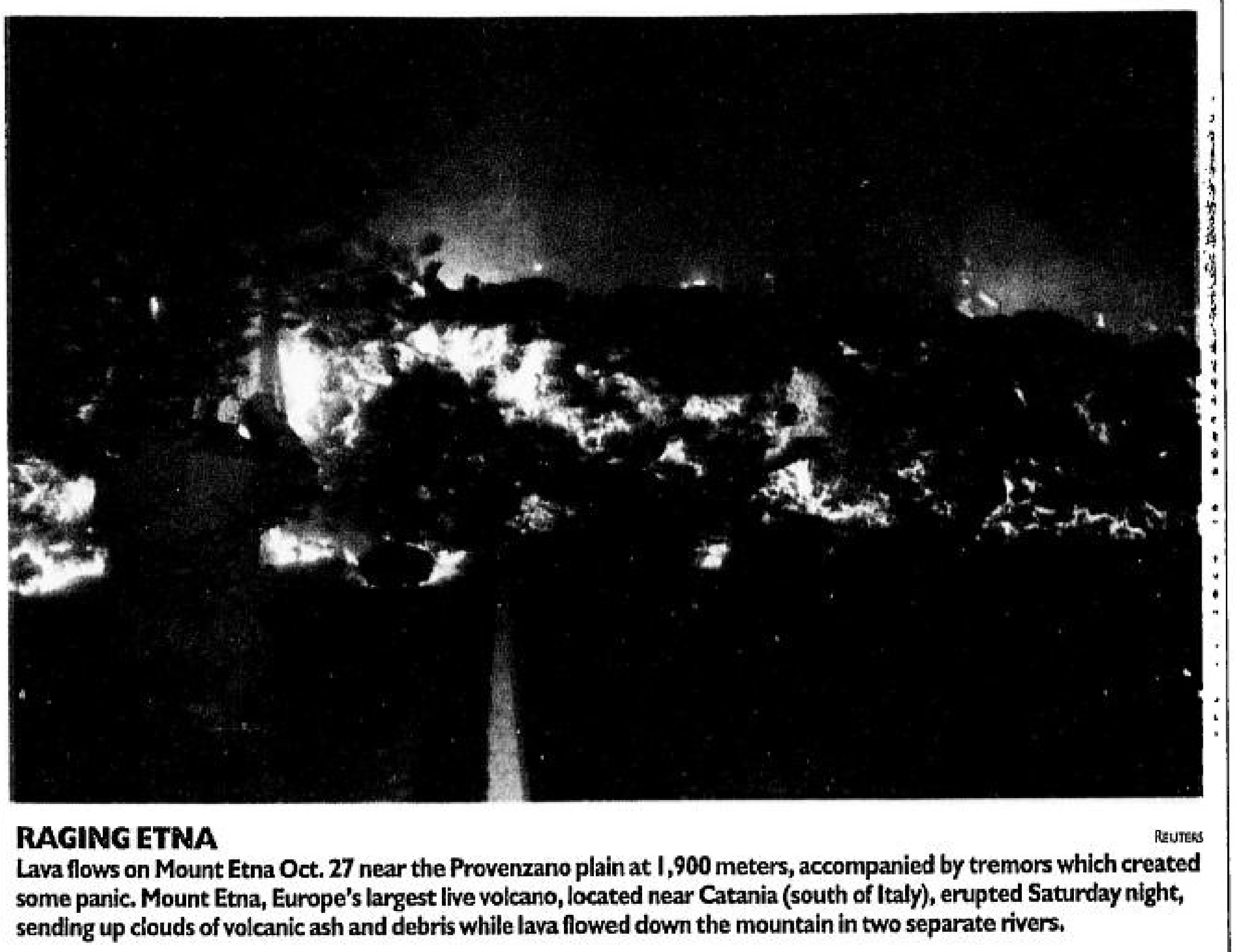
Havilland said federal agents conducted only preliminary questioning of Osbourne before the hearing and that it was too soon to say if he was cooperating.

Federal and state prosecutors have been jockeying to be the first to try the sniper suspects. Seven jurisdictions—two Maryland counties, four Virginia counties and the District of Columbia—could try the case, in addition to potential federal charges.

Both suspects were arrested after one of the biggest manhunts in US history. Authorities have confirmed a gun found in the suspects' car matched bullets used in most of the shootings.

In Virginia, Spotsylvania County Commonwealth's Attorney William Neely said on Sunday state prosecutors would file murder and attempted murder charges on Monday in a bid to avoid being sidelined by any federal charges.

"US Attorney General John Ashcroft ultimately decides who has jurisdiction," he said. "That's why the states are rushing to file charges, so we're not supplanted by federal charges." Both suspects could face execution if found guilty in Virginia. *Reuters*



RAGING ETNA Reuters

Lava flows on Mount Etna Oct. 27 near the Provenzano plain at 1,900 meters, accompanied by tremors which created some panic. Mount Etna, Europe's largest live volcano, located near Catania (south of Italy), erupted Saturday night, sending up clouds of volcanic ash and debris while lava flowed down the mountain in two separate rivers.

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Japanese abandons invalid ma in park

TOKYO—A homeless Japanese man has been arrested for abandoning his paralyzed 76-year-old mother in a city park after deciding he could no longer care for her, police said Monday.

The woman, confined to a wheelchair and unable to move or speak, was left shortly after nightfall Saturday with some bread and a bag of diapers on her lap.

Japanese folklore tells of people abandoning elderly parents in the mountains to die, but the man, Masanori Matsubara, 39, said he hoped someone would find his mother and take care of her, said police official Katsutoshi Sakai.

Police charged Matsubara with caregiver abandonment.

Police refused to give the woman's name, but said her health was unaffected. The local government in the western city of Osaka, where the incident happened, is looking for a place for her to live. *AP*

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.webling.com

DAR gives Mike land away for CARP

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on Saturday distributed the 97-hectare property owned by the family of First Spouse Mike Arroyo to 56 farmer-beneficiaries in Binalbagan town, Negros Occidental.

Ignacio Arroyo, the First Spouse's brother, and Alexis Arsenal, DAR director for Western Visayas, attended the turnover ceremony where the farmers were given their Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) in Barangay Payao, Binalbagan, about 72 kilometers south of this city.

A little more than 12 hectares went to nine farmers associated with the militant farmers' group Task Force Mapalad.

The rest were divided among the members of the Negros Occidental Farmers Federation Association (NOFFA) who said they planned to till their share collectively, Enrique Tayo of NOFFA said.

Arsenal said the takeover of the farmers of their share of the land would be done gradually in some areas where the harvest of standing sugarcane crop has yet to be completed.

He, however, reminded the beneficiaries to cultivate the land given them and not to sell it. If they do so, he added, the farmers will perpetually be disqualified from availing of land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Ignacio said his family was happy to turn over to the farmers Hacienda Manolita, which had been with his family for three generations.

His only request was for the beneficiaries to take care of it for the sake of their children's future.

"I am happy to have given to my people their life-long dreams and aspirations of being landowners. We feel they deserve it," he said, noting that everybody seemed to be happy during the turnover.

Arroyo said his family is putting up a scholarship program in honor of their father, the late Ignacio Arroyo Sr., for qualified children of the Hacienda Manolita farmer-beneficiaries.

"We will start with five scholars for college education and see if we can expand the number in the future to other farms," he said.

The Arroyo family has offered at least 748 hectares in Negros Occidental, including Hacienda Manolita, to the DAR under its Voluntary Offer to Sell. The DAR has listed 342 identified farmer-beneficiaries.

The other pieces of property include the 88-hectare JJ-Manolita Agricultural Corp. land also in Barangay Payao, Binalbagan; and the 156-hectare Hacienda Bacan in Barangay Guintubdan, Isabela town, both owned by First Spouse Arroyo.

His uncle, Antonio, owns 37-hectare Alaja-Manolita land, in Binalbagan town; and the 190-hectare Hacienda Grande and 90-hectare Hacienda Alipyon, both in La Castellana City.

Another uncle, Pedro Arroyo, owns a 90-hectare farm in Barangay Calapi, Hinigaran town.

Ignacio Arroyo said their family has two other pieces of property, which are up for distribution under the CARP.

They are the 600-hectare Hacienda Palacon in Isabela and Binalbagan, and the Hacienda Bacan in Isabela, which could be turned over in a year depending on the DAR.

ROUNDUP

Grenade attack

COTABATO CITY—A village chair survived a grenade attack but his neighbor in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao was killed. Four children were also hurt when four armed men fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the house of Mardan Sulog, chair of Barangay Balod in Sultan Kudarat, on Sunday dawn. Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said Sulog's neighbor, Haraga Karon, was killed. Members of the Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion failed to catch up with the suspects who quickly fled to the village's forested area. Ando identified the suspects as Isagani Kayo, Maruper Usman, Pakili Mamadra, Mangumbang Arab at Butintin Macarimbang, suspected to be relatives of a defeated candidate for barangay chair.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Death for murder

MALOLOS CITY—A judge here sentenced a woman and her suspected lover to death for the murder of her husband and her father-in-law in 1998. In a 26-page decision, Judge Gregorio Sampaga of the regional trial court here found Florenda Castro, 49, and Christopher Talita, 29, guilty of conspiring to kill her second husband, Alfredo Castro, and her father-in-law Elpidio Castro. The Castros were shot and killed by a lone gunman, who was later identified as Talita, in front of their house at Barangay Poblacion in Pandi town on May 19, 1998. Lolita Castro, wife of Elpidio, filed the murder and parricide charges against Castro and Talita.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Stolen goods' warehouse

PULILAN, Bulacan—Acting on information provided by residents, police here discovered a warehouse of hijacked goods and recovered 900 sacks of flour owned by the family of former Bulacan Rep. Pedro Pancho on Wednesday. The warehouse, located in Barangay Dampol First here, is also believed to be a major storehouse of stolen goods from Central Luzon and Metro Manila, police said. Police also recovered an identification card of SPO1 Fernando de Guzman of Capas, Tarlac, and a police uniform from the warehouse. Through his ID recovered from the warehouse, De Guzman was identified by the driver of the flour delivery truck and his helper as one of the armed men who hijacked their truck in Moncada, Tarlac, on Wednesday dawn.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Paniqui Assembly

ANAO, Tarlac—Former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. on Wednesday led the groundbreaking ceremony for the historical marker and research center of the Paniqui Assembly of 1899 in Barangay San Francisco West here. Cojuangco, who rarely goes public in his native Tarlac since the 1998 presidential campaign, pledged his support for the project. He said he would always be supportive of Tarlac even if he was no longer involved in politics, especially in projects that would enshrine the province's contribution to history. The ceremony, held at the church grounds of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), was meant to recognize the "true venue" of the Paniqui Assembly, which took place on the same spot on Oct. 23, 1899.

Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Donation for eagles

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) received another donation from the American Express last month. The $10,000 donation was intended for the conservation education project of the foundation. The American Express, which started its commitment to the project in 1992, adopted "Pag-asa," the first Philippine Eagle hatched through a special breeding program. The PEF has been trying to breed eagles in captivity to increase the bird's population. Since 1992, PEF successfully hatched 10 eaglets but only nine survived. The foundation depends heavily on donations for its project.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA victims dug up

DAVAO CITY—The skeletal remains of two Manobo *lumad* who were allegedly killed by New People's Army rebels were dug from a shallow grave in Salaysay, Marilog District here recently. Exhumed were the remains of Roque Saligan, 19, and his cousin Rolly, 18, who were killed and buried on Sept. 5, 2000 allegedly by NPA rebels led by Tommy Hernandez alias Commander Giovanni. Hernandez surrendered to local authorities in Laak town in Compostela Valley in July this year. The discovery of the grave came after Lito Dalugdog confided to Barangay Kagawad Paul Barete that he witnessed the murder of the Saligans. Dalugdog said his family, former supporters of the NPA, owned the lot where the Saligans were buried. The victims were allegedly convicted by the NPA of robbery.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Firm says Perez didn't intervene

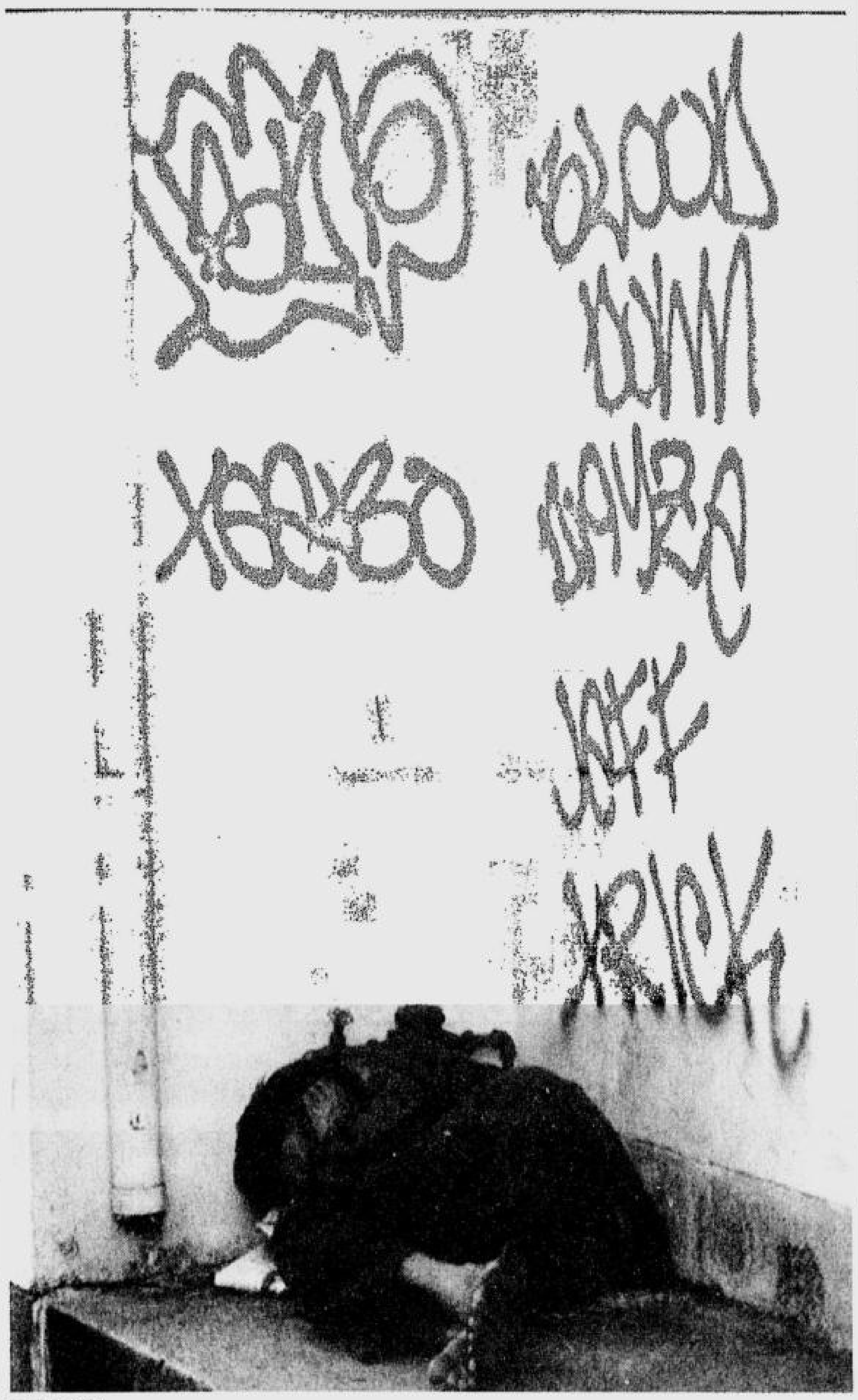
THE J.D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC) Co. has described as "utterly unfounded, malicious and false" reports that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez had intervened with the Department of Public Works and Highways to award to it a road construction project in Batangas.

J. D. Legaspi, owner of the company, said in a press statement that he did not personally know Perez, nor did Perez know him. "So what reason would the secretary have to intervene on my behalf in order for me to secure the project?" he asked.

Legaspi said that anybody interested, including reporters, are free to look into the prequalification records of the project, which he described as a "small road development" connecting the towns of Bauan and Mabini in Batangas, and "they will never see any supposed endorsement by Secretary Perez for JDLC."

"To claim that I enclosed an endorsement by Secretary Perez in my prequalification documents for the Bataan project is totally false, irresponsible and libelous," said Legaspi.

Legaspi added that even if he did know Perez, he would never have asked him or anyone to pressure any government body to award his company a contract. "Why should we do that when we are fully qualified to bid on our own?" he said in his statement.



TERROR TOOTS SOBERANO

Part of a pavement in a Baguio City street provides home to a man whom some people would simply dismiss as insane, but to others could be the best symbol of the kind of terror that poverty and neglect brings.

X'mas comes early for family of freed OFW

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—It's Christmas in October.

This was how Raema Tomaro described the decision of the Kuwaiti appeals court acquitting her husband Teddy and three other Filipinos of the murder of a Canadian national last year.

"He is free. God has answered my prayers because there is nothing impossible with Him," said Raema, 38 and a Grade 2 teacher at the George L. Araneta Elementary School in Bago City, 21.5 kilometers south of Bacolod.

She said their children were so happy that they decided to put up their Christmas tree in their homes in Barangay Tangub, Bacolod.

"For them it is like Christmas in October. They put up our Christmas tree and told me this time Christmas will be complete because their papa will be home," she said.

The Tomaro children are 14-year-old twins Shenny Pearl and Sherryl Joy, and Rhoda Mae, 15.

Teddy, 40, was released from the Kuwaiti jail on Oct. 27, exactly a year after he was arrested, after the court of appeals cleared him and three others of the murder of Luc Ethier.

The others who were acquitted were Ethier's wife, Mary Jane Bitos, Norsa Talib Esick and Lourdes Viray.

Ethier was shot dead while walking with Bitos through a busy shopping area in Fahaheel, south of Kuwait City on Oct. 10, 2001. Bitos was shot three times during the attack.

Teddy was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Ethier while Bitos got three years for giving false testimony. Esick was meted with a five-year jail term for adultery and possession of firearm. Viray was sentenced for three months imprisonment for not reporting the crime.

But on Sunday, the Kuwaiti appeals court dropped all the charges and declared that the four were innocent.

Raema had been seeking the help of practically every government official she could get hold on to since her husband was arrested on Oct. 27, 2001.

She said the past year had been so terrible especially financially when she had to single-handedly raise three teenagers on a meager salary of a teacher.

But her effort paid off as her prayers were finally answered. Raema said she would like to extend her gratitude to those who helped her.

Cops hunt killers of fashion designer, houseboy

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police are hunting two suspects in Sunday's double murder and arson case involving a fashion designer and his houseboy at the erstwhile peaceful and quiet Silliman Park in Barangay Bantayan here.

Samuel Villagonzalo, 52, was believed to have been killed with 17-year-old houseboy Marlon Sorena, before the suspects set their house and car on fire around 5:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Villagonzalo was a retired Saudi Arabia banker who embarked on a second career as a fashion designer upon his return to Dumaguete.

The two were the only occupants of the house, which Villagonzalo also used as his fashion studio.

Sorena's charred body was found in the living room with a wire around its neck and a fracture in its head.

Villagonzalo's was found a few feet away in a sofa with stab wounds.

"This was a robbery," PO3 Normeriano Gabo said.

Animal research center complains of jet boom

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Animal experts here complained of noise produced by military aircraft that flew over this city during the recently concluded Talon Vision 02 military exercises in Central Luzon.

They said the "booming sound" from the aircraft reduced the production and the reproduction performances of farm animals kept in research centers here.

"Our dairy carabaos were affected. Their milk production decreased," said Dr. Libertado Cruz, executive director of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) here.

Cruz said the PCC's carabaos could have been disturbed by the noise.

"We noted the decline in milk production of our animals. They happened when we noted the booming sounds of airplanes flying over here these past few nights. They must have been startled by the sound," he said.

The PCC's main research center here has several hundred Bulgarian water buffaloes, as well as crossbreeds of native and imported carabaos, being used for milk production.

Also airing similar complaints were animal experts involved in the production of chicken and quail eggs at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) here.

The experts, however, did not give figures on the decline in milk and egg productions.

Residents here and in nearby towns also complained of the aircraft noise.

They described the sound as "eardrum-splitting and vibrating," which they never heard before.

They said their windowpanes and appliances shook as the planes passed by.

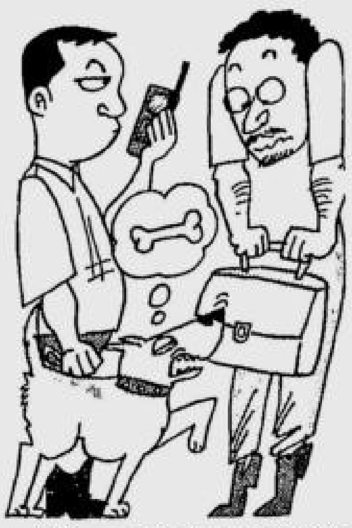
The Talon Vision exercises, which ended on Friday, were held in Clark in Pampanga, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and Subic in Zambales.

Officials, who supervised the Talon Vision exercises, described the airplanes as 718 Hornet fighter jets. These jets were based, however, at the Clark Air Base in Pampanga during the training. The exercises included "fly-over" maneuvers in Nueva Ecija.

US Maj. Charles Western, battalion commander of the US Marines who trained in Fort Magsaysay, and Maj. Vic Tomas, chief of the civil affairs unit of the 7th Infantry Division, said the fighter jets that flew over Nueva Ecija were cruising "at very high altitudes."

Tomas and Western said the use of these fighter planes in ground-air exercise was discussed and approved by "higher authorities."

AFP to let LGUs use bomb-sniffing dogs for a fee



FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Globalization has not made military weapons any cheaper for developing countries like the Philippines, despite the onslaught of global terrorism.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines is sharing its bomb-sniffing dogs to local governments, to which President Macapagal-Arroyo has entrusted the country's anti-terrorism crusade, AFP chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, said here Saturday.

For a fee, the AFP could deploy a dozen dogs from its canine team, Defensor said. The dogs have been trained to detect the scent of gunpowder and other chemical components for an explosive device.

The AFP has 36 bomb-sniffing dogs.

Local governments will now carry the brunt of the anti-terrorism intelligence-gathering program, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Reyes and Defensor attended the 104th Foundation Day rites of the Philippine Military Academy here.

In his speech, Reyes said the "new security environment" of the country and the world has required better equipment, modern spy networks and a grounded educational background that understands the psychology of terrorism.

But Defensor admitted that military ordnance was still an expensive commodity, despite free trade.

"There is an existing worldwide trade of arms across the seas. But the trade of weapons is not entirely dependent on globalization . . . (It follows) the law of supply and demand. In the Philippines, we can afford to have the (military) technology but we can only afford to buy inexpensive ones," he said.

"(The world' arms market) is a continuing process. If we have to be philosophical about it, if we want to have peace, we have to prepare for conflict. Peace is very difficult to attain, that is why the arms sales are there."

But for the Philippines' requirements, Defensor stressed that the canine supply is an inexpensive alternative to high-grade weaponry.

The country's security experts traditionally prefer the Belgian Malinois, a breed of dog that shares the characteristics of the more popular German Shepherd.

Defensor did not reveal how much the AFP would charge local governments for their trained canines, but he said local governments would find the animals useful in containing terrorist threats.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the AFP's Northern Luzon Command, said local government security will be tightened—especially for Central Luzon, where potential targets such as Subic Bay Freeport and Clark Special Economic Zone are located. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

1,000 farmers to rally vs IRRI

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—At least 1,000 farmers from the Southern Tagalog region and seven countries are expected to join a rally today to protest the International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) alleged "disregard of workers rights, and its involvement in bio-piracy and genetic engineering."

The farmers' protest coincides with the annual general meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Makati where more than 500 scientists all over the world have convened starting yesterday until Nov. 1.

The CGIAR is a global alliance of 16 international research institutes known as "Future Harvest Centers," 22 developing and 21 industrialized nations and hundreds of partner organizations in over 100 countries.

A member of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) told the INQUIRER that the march will start at about 8:30 a.m. from the Olivares Mall here and move to IRRI gates where local and international speakers from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand will take turns expressing their sentiments in favor of the farmers' plight.

The other nations to be represented are Mexico, Colombia and India.

The Magsasaka at Siyentipiko Para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag) said in an advisory that the protest march, which will proceed to Manila tomorrow, is in protest of the CGIAR.

"The CGIAR aims to help agriculture in the developing world, however, farmers and people's organizations argue that it has failed to do this. It faces controversy on GMOs (genetically-modified organisms), biopiracy, workers' rights, environmental sustainability and inability to meet farmers needs," Masipag said.

In an earlier statement, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel argued that the CGIAR signals the recognition of the country's standing as a seat of excellence in agricultural research.

The IRRI, the world's leading center in rice research, is among the "Future Harvest Centers" of CGIAR.

Pimentel lauded the active collaboration between the CGIAR and the country's research institutions, saying it would accelerate scientific knowledge and technology generation.

The Resistance and Solidarity Against Agrochemical Trans National Corporations (Resist!)—a broad alliance of farmers, scientists, environmentalists, academicians and individual advocates—demanded justice for the alleged chemical poisoning victims of IRRI and the passage of House Bill 5095, a bill protecting the rights of IRRI workers.

Resist accused the IRRI of committing illegal retrenchment and human rights violations.

Duncan Macintosh, IRRI information officer, earlier admitted to the INQUIRER that IRRI had to retrench its employees due to a big cut in funding from Japan. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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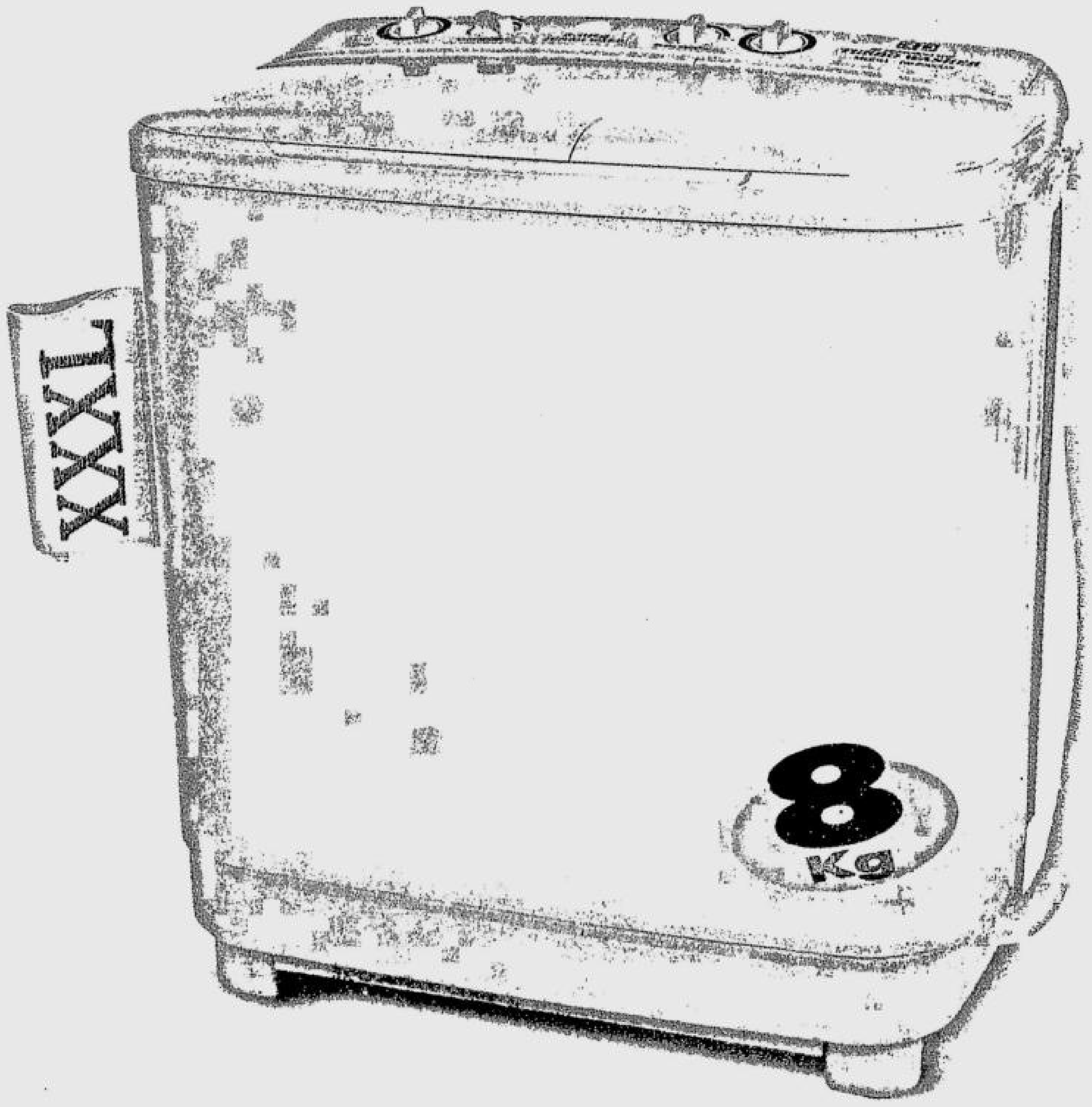

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CEBU DECLARATION

100 labor leaders hit ID system

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Some 100 labor leaders gathered here to declare their opposition to the government's plan to implement a national ID system, labeling it as a curtailment of civil liberties and not a means to fight terrorism.

The labor union leaders were in Cebu for the labor forum initiated by the Labor Centennial Commission (LCC), a coalition of labor unions and organizations in the country.

To formalize the LCC position, the union leaders passed a resolution Sunday questioning the legality and constitutionality of the national ID system.

Greg Janginon, chair of Partido ng Manggagawa (PM)-Cebu chapter, said they would furnish local chief executives and Malacañang copies of the resolution. They would also stage a series of protest actions against the administration's plan to issue an executive order legalizing the national ID system.

Gerardo Lakay, PM national vice chair and president of the Philippine Air Lines Employees Association (Palea), said a national ID system would never be a solution against terrorism.

He said the administration had even failed to define terrorism and worse, he said, anybody who is vocal against the government and its policies could be branded as a terrorist.

"If (the ID system) would be implemented we would go back to the time of President Marcos, the time of martial rule," he said.

He said organized labor believes that the national ID system will only be used by the government to spy on the people, especially members of progressive groups whom they would easily label as terrorists.

Edwin Ruaza, vice president of the LCC, criticized Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia and Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña for urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to make Cebu as a pilot area for the national ID system.

"In this country whose leaders are known to use state machinery for political and personal ends, invasion of privacy through the ID system strikes fear (in) many citizens," Ruaza said.

Ruaza said the civil rights of the people should not be compromised in the fight against terrorism.

"We remember well GMA's (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) not-so-subtle declaration that she will fight 'those who terrorize factories.' Since GMA believes that militant unionism is a form of terrorism, then we are certain she will use the national ID to suppress workers," Ruaza said.

'Shabu' keeps awake town's fishermen

MAGALANG, Pampanga—About 80 percent of fishermen in Obando, Bulacan, occasionally use shabu to stay awake while at sea, a police official in charge of Central Luzon's only drug rehabilitation center said.

Senior Supt. Conrado Briton, executive director of the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center, shared this finding during Thursday's briefing for Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. on Thursday.

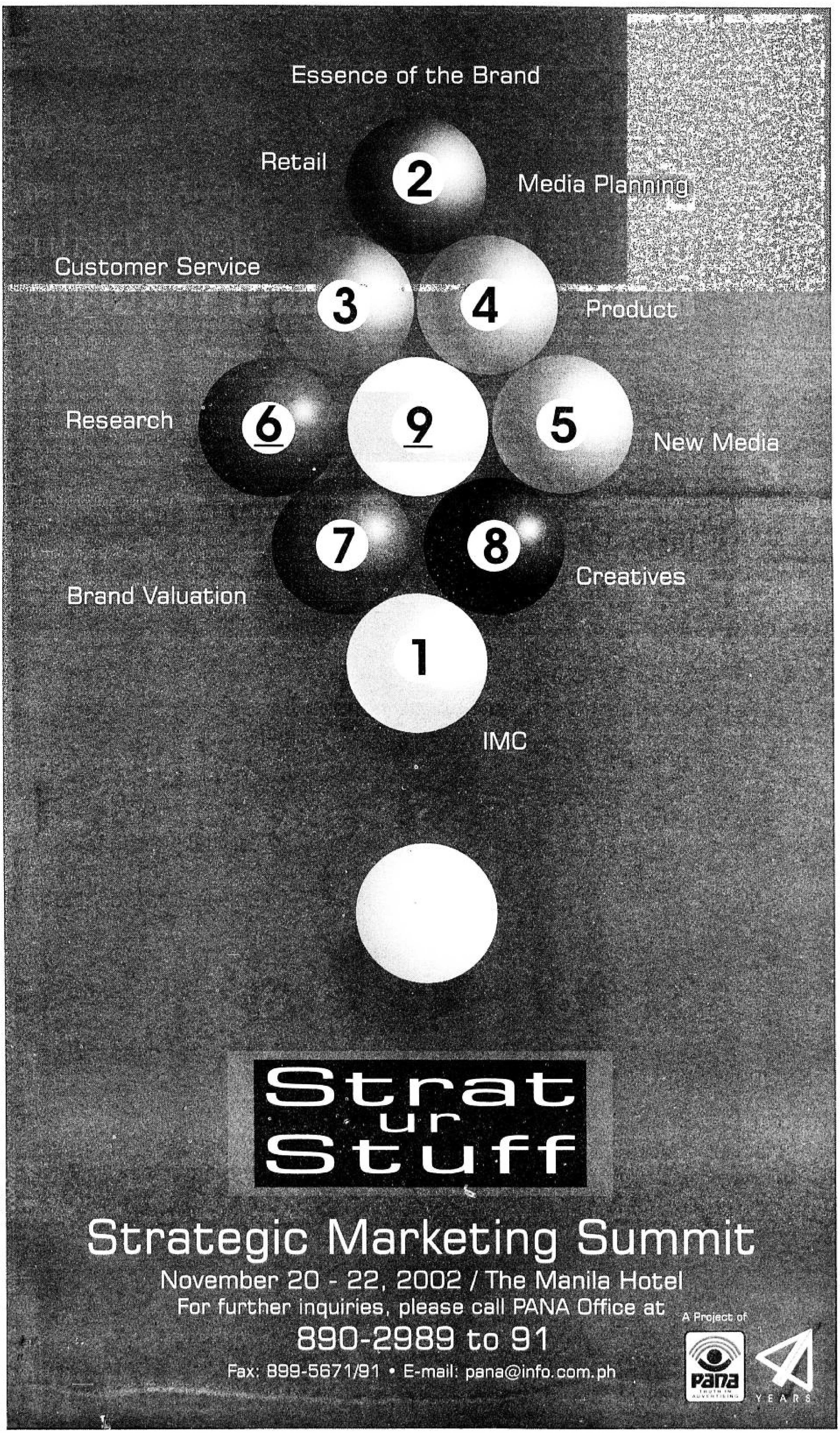
He said the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, formerly the Narcotics Group of the Philippine National Police, got this finding from a study it made last year in the area.

Briton said shabu is accessible in Obando and the rest of Central Luzon and is being retailed at P100 per sachet and distributed in smaller quantities for P20.

The session, according to Briton, is capped by drinking cheap gin.

"Shabu is used to stay awake while at sea," Briton told Lina and Pampanga mayors. The officials were here to inaugurate the administration building of the CLDRC.

The center, put up in March 2000, was built through the non-government organization Sagip Bie Foundation. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



Defense execs welcome MILF help vs terror

REYES

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front's offer to hunt down the top suspect in the Oct. 18 bombing of a bus in Metro Manila is a "confidence building measure" that could finally pave the way for peace with the group, military officials said here Saturday.

"I'd like to see (the MILF) do just that (arrest the suspect) . . . The government has an on-and-off peace negotiation with (the MILF)," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said here during the 104th Foundation Day rites of the Philippine Military Academy.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, said the government would also welcome a similar offer from the communist New People's Army, despite a US advisory that labels the group as a foreign terrorist organization.

But Defensor admitted he remained skeptical about the sincerity of such offers. He said various groups have been "riding on" the terrorist scare being generated by the bombings.

"This offer (the MILF) made could be a good step, but right now, (while) we are (negotiating) for a peace process . . . they are gathering people in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. We have destroyed the first batch of their camps and (we are) moving inwards. (Based on) our information, there are MILF people (in these camps)," Defensor said.

Offer

"If they come up with an offer on anti-terrorism, we will welcome that. We would like to believe that there are good elements in the MILF, which are really sincere (about the ideology) they are fighting for, and are sincere (about returning to) mainstream society," he said.

Defensor said the military has the same doubts about the NPA.

"We are holding peace talks with the NPA, but we cannot (pursue) these if they start hitting police stations (and attacking) innocent troops, if they continue to extort and if they continue kidnapping people. I doubt the sincerity of people who are talking about peace but are doing something else," he said.

Reyes, in a speech before PMA officials and cadets, said the government would continue exercising its right to "use all of its resources to strike and rid our society of those who would wish to destroy it."

He said terrorism had changed the "security environment" of the country. *Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DAR to teach trade to farmers

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza is dispatching development facilitators to remote barangays to train farmer-beneficiaries on the proper management of their farms and how to enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

Braganza said he expects the facilitators to help farmers maximize farm-based resources and develop them into and services that they can market for added income.

He said the development facilitators would reach out to as many farmers as they could and give them lessons on entrepreneurial farm management, which is being promoted by the Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Program (BIARSP) a DAR project supported by the government of Belgium.

"The development of our agrarian reform beneficiaries should not be limited to increasing their farm output alone. Their ability to manage their own business is also one of our considerations in ensuring the improvement of their standard of living," Braganza said.

DAR's facilitators have recently undergone seminar on entrepreneurial farm management sponsored by BIARSP.

Apec vows to fight poverty, terrorism

From page A1

region depended on it. *(See related story on Page A12.)*

Nothing about Iraq

The summit's declaration said nothing about Iraq, despite Unites States President George W. Bush's efforts to lobby his fellow Apec members to support US threats of war against Saddam Hussein.

But Apec leaders condemned the "mass slaughter of the innocent" on the Indonesian island of Bali, where 191 people were killed by a terrorist's bomb. They said the attack "reminds us of terrorism's brutality and the global imperative to oppose and fight this threat wherever it may be found."

Fox announced the declaration at a US$700-a-night hotel in this Mexican sport-fishing and golf resort, surrounded by his male counterparts in white guayabera shirts and the grouping's three female leaders in colorfully embroidered blouses called huipiles.

The leaders endorsed a US-crafted proposal to tighten security on millions of shipping containers, fortify cockpit doors in airliners and strengthen cooperation among customs and immigration officials.

While less developed nations had worried new security measures would be expensive and undermine trade, a consensus emerged that security was now simply another business cost and essential to prosperity.

"Terrorism is a direct challenge to Apec's goals of free, open and prosperous economies," the group said after an initial meeting on Saturday at which terrorism topped the agenda.

"We are united in our determination to end the threat that terrorism poses to our shared goals."

The leaders agreed on a breakthrough package of measures to protect their people and economies from fresh attacks.

Landmark proposals

The communique contained landmark proposals to curb the furtive financing of radical groups such as Osama bin Laden's al Qaida.

The decision to monitor money transfer systems such as the ancient Middle Eastern honor-based "hawala," believed to have been used by Bin Laden and the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers, and halt misuse of charities, was a first by a multilateral group.

Among the measures agreed was improving safety of airline passengers by introducing new, more effective baggage-screening procedures and equipment in all Apec major airports by 2005.

Another clause required reinforcing flight-deck doors on passenger aircraft by April 2003 wherever possible and leaders agreed to quickly implement a container security regime.

The declaration called on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to assess countries' efforts to stop the flow of money to terrorists, and offer assistance to countries that need it.

Although supportive of the measures, many poor nations have worried that they won't have the money or training to carry out the initiatives in time. The declaration said common standards would be put into place by 2005 "whenever possible."

Abolition of subsidies

It also called for the abolition of agricultural subsidies in the United States, Europe and Japan that were widely criticized by developing nations and others at the summit.

Apec, created in 1989 to promote free trade among economies of the Pacific Rim, has increasingly found itself wrangling with political issues.

Bush also failed to sway doubtful United Nations Security Council members on his proposal to threaten Iraq with war if it doesn't disarm.

France, Russia, Mexico and other allies have tried to water down the United States' hard-line approach to Iraq, and Bush administration officials have acknowledged that a strong UN resolution to force Saddam Hussein to disarm may elude them this week.

Although the fight against terrorism continued to be the focus of the Apec summit, leaders declared resoundingly that tighter security should not derail free trade efforts. They promised to "maximize political support for the pursuit of free and open trade and investment."

But Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien expressed doubt that this year's meeting—like last year's in Shanghai, China—would be successful in undermining future attacks.

"It's not because we have a declaration in Shanghai that terrorism is going to disappear," he said, adding: "Now it's coming from anywhere. It's completely unpredictable." *AP and Reuters*

SAN DIEGO, California, is the third US city President Macapagal with her husband, Mike Arroyo, visit after attending the Apec summit in Mexico.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA sets 7-point work agenda for next 6 months

From page A1

- To begin infrastructure projects that will decongest Metro Manila;
- To increase the contribution of Pagcor to the government's frail resources;
- To make Makati a specific urban transport destination; and
- To stimulate private investment in agriculture.

"Our main goal is to win the battle against poverty within the decade, but we must also win permanent national stability," she said.

Prosperous

Ms Macapagal made an overnight stop at this prosperous California city boasting an estimated 250,000 potential absentee Filipino voters after attending the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Los Cabos just across the border with Mexico.

Yesterday, she and 20 other leaders of Asia-Pacific economies, including the leaders of the United States, China, Japan and Mexico, resolved to adopt policies that would "reverse the direction of the global economy away from a creeping march towards another economic recession." *(Story on Page A1)*

San Diego is the third US city to have been visited by Ms Macapagal on this trip that is believed to be an attempt to woo the substantial vote of an estimated 2 million Filipino Americans.

Though she has always denied it, she is expected to make a run for the presidency in 2004. She is only serving out the unexpired term of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Strong republic thesis

Congress is working at reconciling two contradictory absentee voting bills that its two chambers passed in mid-October. The bills seek to allow overseas Filipinos to vote in Philippine elections for the first time.

Ms Macapagal began her speech last night with an explanation of her "strong republic" thesis. She said that to overcome tremendous problems, Filipinos must build a strong republic.

"Upon the cornerstone of a strong republic, we are building a structure of shared ethical values, a firm consensus to serve the common interest and a common vision of our national future," she said.

She said that even as she was resolving the terrorist threats, she remained focused on a tightly consolidated seven-point program.

The President also said the government would begin the complete staff work to turn the Roxas Boulevard reclamation area into a tourism complex.

Citing her peace and order victories at home, Ms Macapagal told her audience that because of her government's aggressive stance against terrorism, domestic terrorists, particularly the Abu Sayyaf, were on the run.

"We have also captured the Zamboanga bombers and the mastermind of the latest bus bombing in Manila," she said.

The President also said the police had crushed at least five of the most notorious kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

Finally she said she had been informed by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople that the government had successfully campaigned to have "the terrorist character" of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, placed on the agenda of the European Union.

In addition, most European governments had indicated that they would support a bid to endorse the NPA as a terrorist organization to the United Nations which, under Security Council Resolution 373, mandates all states to commit themselves fully to the global fight against terrorism.

Ms Macapagal said the campaign against terrorism and crime had been reinforced by the government's unswerving policy that has kept the economy on an even keel.

'Stay with me'

"Inflation is at a 12-month low, driven down by staple food prices and declining power costs. Interest rates are at their lowest in 15 years. International credit rating agencies have rated us as stable in the investment area since late 2001," she said.

The President claimed that the regional gross national product figures showed that the Philippines was the best performing economy in Southeast Asia and the third best in Asia.

Making her pitch to the Filipinos in the audience, she said no President could build the strong republic single-handedly.

"I can do it if I can count on the support of the more than 2 million Filipino Americans," she said.

"Stay with me, even as you build America here in San Diego, help me build a strong Philippine republic," she said.

DECLARATION of the leaders of 21 nations led by their host, Mexican President Vicente Fox, is held at Al Paraiso Hotel, Los Cabos, Mexico, at the conclusion of the two-day Apec summit.

JERRY CARUAL/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Why imported veggies are cheaper

From page A1

ty, they said, but cost less than the local produce.

Gov't failure

"The agriculture secretary is trying to exculpate himself with his gimmick of so-called transparency by pointing the accusing finger at importers like Rustan's for the entry of imported vegetables when in fact it is the very policies of this government that have made importation more profitable for retailers like Rustan's at the expense of local farmers," said Ed Mora,the chair of the Sandigan at Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas.

Mora added that the government has failed to protect the interest of small farmers against the influx of cheap imported agricultural products

Why cheaper

Why is it cheaper to import vegetables? This is a question that only the Macapagal administration can address, and quickly.

The reasons: Tariff reduction and the lifting of import restrictions as mandated by the World Trade Organization; homegrown smuggling and hoarding; inefficient production, storage and distribution facilities including "farm-to-nowhere roads;" and a lack of access to modern agriculture technology.

Unwinnable

"By opening our domestic market to the agricultural products of other countries, government has forced our peasants into a competition which they cannot possibly win," said Lulu Gimenez, spokesperson of the Alyánsa dagiti Pesánte iti Taéng-Kordilyéra (Apit Tako) or the Alliance of Peasants in the Cordillera Homeland.

The situation has come to a point where a vegetable crisis threatens the country's food security.

According to the 2001 Agricultural Foreign Trade Development Annual Report of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, the country imported as much as 17,639 metric tons of onions worth US$2 million in 2001 alone.

The importations were more than the total production of the onion-growing province of Pangasinan of 11,027 metric tons. Last year, China alone exported 10,690 metric tons of onions to the Philippines.

Interesting to note from the same report was that the Philippines imported 163.89 metric tons of cauliflower and broccoli from Singapore in 2001, or a 5,418-percent increase from the volume in 2000. There was also a 2,364-percent increase in the importation of cabbage from China, from 6.41 metric tons in 2000 to 35.74 metric tons last year.

Australia, with whom the Philippines has an agricultural trade dispute, exported 233.79 metric tons of lettuce in 2001.

It was last August when the farmers in the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) first noted the depressed prices of highland vegetables during a season when uncertainty in vegetable supply due to the heavy rains normally drive prices up.

The Apit Tako said the rainy season was usually a time of *"chamba"* (luck) for highland vegetable producers as the rise in prices allows them to gain as much as P50,000 for a mere half-hectare's crop.

"The past weeks' depression in the prices of highland vegetables is thus abnormal," the Cordillera farmers group said.

Last April, the Bureau of Plant Industry (Bopi) of the Department of Agriculture also started noting a sharp rise in the importation of semi-temperate vegetables—broccoli, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, potato and mushroom. These are the same vegetables being produced in the cooler regions of the country.

Montemayor himself acknowledged the soaring volumes of imported vegetables that he had, as it were, to name and pass the buck to the 14 companies responsible for the importations.

'Moral obligation'

One of the country's largest supermarket chains, Rustan Supermarket has defended its vegetable importation as part of its "moral obligation" to provide consumers a wide range of choices.

At the same time, Rustan's clarified that 97 percent of all vegetables sold at its 21 branches are locally sourced.

Rustan supermarkets had been singled out by the Department of Agriculture as the biggest among the 14 top importers of at least 37 kinds of semi-temperate vegetables mostly from Australia in the first nine months of the year that directly compete with local produce.

The management of Rustan Supermarkets Inc. (RSI) said the company imported only 63 tons of vegetables as opposed to buying 2,174.69 tons from local suppliers so far this year.

"Vegetable orders among local suppliers were not lessened, in fact it was even enhanced as a category," said Mary Ann Ducanes, advertising and promotions manager of RSI.

Ducanes said five Rustan Supermarket branches in Makati, Rockwell, Shangri-La Plaza, Forbes Park and Katipunan—the enclaves of Metro Manila's rich—out of 21 branches and outlets carry the imported lineup.

Australian imports

Mayors in Benguet had reported that the importation of Australian vegetables had displaced P21 million worth of Baguio vegetables intended last month for Metro Manila markets. The imported semi-temperate vegetables include broccoli, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, potato and mushroom. Benguet farmers's complaints are centered on imported carrots and potatoes, the main cash crops.

According to the Bureau of Plant Industry, the 14 importers except for Rustan's imported vegetables for their own use, such as the Philippine Airlines and the Asian Development Bank Commissary, while the rest supply directly to hotels and restaurants.

BPI records showed Rustan's, which also imports chickens and meat, brought in 4.98 tons of carrots in the first nine months, or 82 percent of the total registered carrot imports this year. The supermarket also imported 1.34 tons of potato, or 74 percent of total potato imports.

Consistent quality

But Ducanes said Rustan's imports items which are either not available locally such as portabello mushrooms, brussel sprouts, red coral lettuce, white washed potatoes, baby spinach, "or items which are not of consistent quality from local sources."

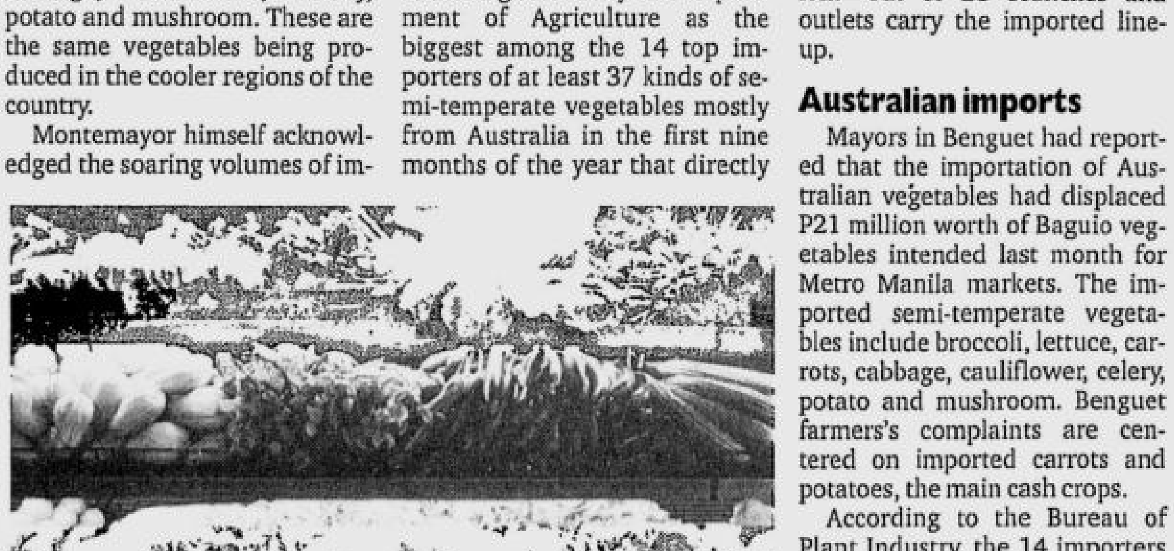
"As dictated by customer demands, RSI imports vegetables because consumers are looking for variety and consistency. Plus of course, the stores feel a moral obligation to provide customers a wide range of choices," Ducanes said.

The supermarket also prices its imported and local vegetables differently. Its imported carrots are retailed for P99.50/kg while the local are sold at P43/kg; imported potatoes are sold at P99.50 while the local variety is priced P38.50.

In the public markets of Metro Manila, white tomatoes were sold at retail prices of P30/kg and carrots at P35/kg as of Oct. 4, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics.

'Fresh' marketing concept

Ducanes said the impor[illegible] of "selected" vegetables [illegible] with the presence of local vegetables, is part of Rustan supermarkets' "Fresh" marketing concept "designed to give customers the freshest and safest choicest of goods available."



IMPORTED or Baguio? Whichever, the vegetable farmers are complaining that massive importations have displaced the local produce due to the failure of government to protect the Filipino farmers.

Yes to Luna, no to GSIS

From page A1

the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard while it stopped the payment of claims of government employees due to unavailability of funds.

"But to use another P50 million from our fund—this time for a painting—is double whammy for us," Gaite said in a statement.

He said the money for the painting could have been used to increase retirement and pension benefits, open up new windows for loans and speed up the payment of other benefits.

A group of teachers of the University of the Philippines noted that the money spent for "Parisian Life" was more than half of what the GSIS owed UP employees in retirement benefits.

The Congress of Teachers/Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (Contend) said the GSIS had canceled the P84 million in retirement gratuity funds for UP employees for this year.

"I really don't know why the GSIS had to intervene in this issue. This should have been left to the National Historical Institute or similar agencies," Contend spokesperson Danilo Arao said.

He said that instead of competing with foreign bidders for the painting, the government should have just talked to the Nakpil family and tried to negotiate for a settlement.

Solita "Winnie" Monsod, television host and UP professor, lamented in her radio program why it had to be lowly government employees who had to save the Luna.

Monsod scored the "incompetence and ineptness of our cultural authorities" for failing to classify the painting as a cultural treasure, a move which could have prevented the sale of the historic work.

She questioned not only the National Museum's failure to do its job of protecting cultural heritage but also the haste in issuing the export permit.

Big gamble

In the Senate, Sen. Manny Villar said the purchase of the painting was a big gamble on the part of Garcia amid the economic crisis.

"I just don't know whether Garcia should be gambling with the members' money," Villar said.

He said that while he was happy that the painting would be shipped back to Manila, he said that spending P50 million of the GSIS members' money without consulting them may not be a good business decision.

While Garcia's objective may have been noble as the painting is a national treasure, the welfare of GSIS members should be the primary consideration, according to Villar.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said it was improper to use members' money without authority on a piece of art no matter how valuable it was.

The painting should have been purchased by the government and given to the National Museum for public display and safekeeping, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

He wondered whether the money spent for the painting would affect the salary and housing loan applications of GSIS members.

Mixed feelings

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said she had mixed feelings on the return of the painting to the Philippines using GSIS money.

"I'm happy that the masterpiece would now be returned to the Philippines where it rightfully belongs but sad that the GSIS had to dig from its P20 billion in excess liquidity to buy the painting."

Oreta asked why the GSIS, if it was indeed awash in money, had not funneled a hefty part of it to members in the form of more benefits.

Congress probe?

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran called for a congressional investigation of what he said was the anomalous use of funds and the abuse of authority on the part of Garcia.

"What right has Garcia to use the GSIS fund to purchase the painting? Granted that the Juan Luna painting is an important part of Philippine art history, the GSIS is still not the body responsible for its recovery and restoration," Beltran said.

He said the GSIS would have raise the contributions from its members to replace the money spent on the painting.

At present, a member's contribution amounts to at least 9 percent of his or her average monthly compensation, plus another 2 percent if a member's salary exceeds the P16,000 limit.

GSIS contributions have steadily increased by 44 percent to 122 percent since 1997, according to Gaite.

"But the benefits and services we receive from the GSIS do not increase correspondingly," he said.

"For years, members have been demanding better services and increased package of benefits from the GSIS. But what they give us are questionable investments, behest loans and *"barya-baryang"* yearly dividends which are not even commensurate to the amounts we have contributed," he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

HAVE yourself a merry little Christmas despite the bomb scare, the suspicious package brought by a taxi driver to Camp Crame being one more sign of the nervous times. JOAN BONDOC

Halloween becomes …

From page A1

Crame set off alarm bells at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police. Camp guards feared it was a high-powered bomb. Explosives experts swung into action and blew up the box—only to find a harmless figurine of Santa Claus inside.

And it all started because an unidentified civilian employee was running late and didn't want to miss the 8 a.m. flag-raising ceremony at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

The driver, Cesar Cabatu, 25, told police that he didn't notice the box until he was told about it by a passenger he had picked up past 7 a.m. in Guadalupe, Makati City.

He said his first impulse was to pull the car over at the shoulder and call the police. But the passenger said she needed to be at Camp Crame by 8 o'clock. She told him to have the brown, rectangular box checked at the camp. Cabatu, a resident of Pasig City, grudgingly consented.

But he was worried while cruising along Edsa. He stopped the cab at Camp Crame's Gate 2 and told the guards about the mysterious parcel behind the driver's seat.

Alarmed, the camp sentries immediately radioed members of the Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) and ordered colleagues and civilians to stay clear of the cab.

From afar, policemen and civilians watched with bated breath as explosives experts gingerly pulled the box out with a pulley, placed it on a truck and brought it to the camp's parade grounds for detonation.

The explosives experts "disrupted" the box with water and got a pleasant surprise: A stuffed, grinning 12-inch-tall Santa Claus lugging a sack of goodies.

With that, everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Except Cabatu. Police grilled him for two hours before letting him go.

"While driving I was worried sick that the bomb could blow up anytime, because we've been having this bomb scare the past week. Good thing it did not," he later told reporters. He said he could not tell who among his three previous passengers had left the box in his cab.

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, chief of staff of the Headquarters Support Service (HSS), commended Cabatu for setting a good example by reporting the suspicious-looking box to the police.

"It means that some people are aware of the basic things that we need to do when we notice suspicious-looking objects. It's a lesson for people to report to the police if they see anything like this," he said.

GSIS invites Nakpil sisters to 'Parisian' unveiling

From page A1

and widow of Andres Bonifacio.

Two of the three sisters were unhappy over the sale of the painting, even if GSIS' acquisition meant that the Luna will stay in the country.

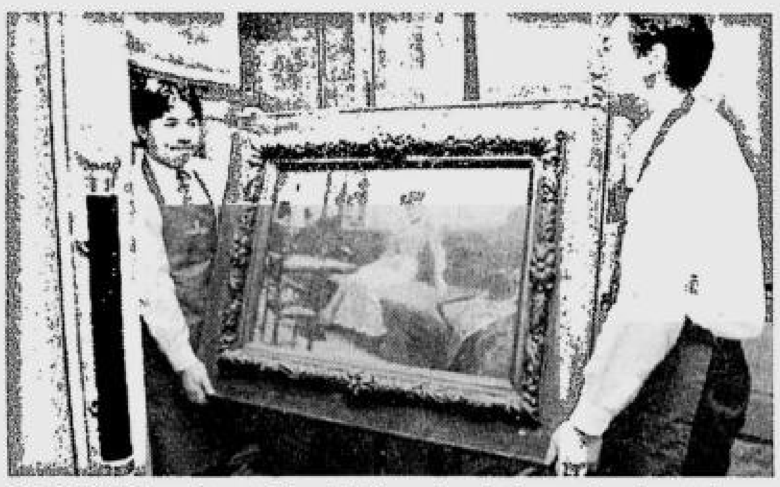
The painting was originally owned by their uncle Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin, who was featured in the painting together with Luna and Jose Rizal in a cafe in Paris in 1892.

Ramon Nakpil II, a descendant of Julio Nakpil's brother Ramon, sold the painting as "his inheritance" despite opposition from the Nakpil matriarch.

Mike Mallari, son-in-law of Francisca, said the Nakpil matriarch never knew that the painting had been returned to the country on Saturday and promptly shipped back for sale in Hong Kong on Sunday. "She feels bad because she feels the painting belongs to the entire clan," he said.

Mallari said Francisca, who only learned of the developments from INQUIRER reports, was unhappy over the sale. "We stand by what she said, that the painting belongs to the entire Nakpil clan and not just to him (Ramon)," he said.

Mallari said his mother-in-law is revered by the clan because she is known to be a "woman of high principle and conviction."



CHRISTIE'S auction staffers hold Luna's painting on Sunday at the JW Marriot Hotel in Hong Kong. AP

No will

Sharp at 96, Francisca said in the INQUIRER interview that there was no will that left the painting to any particular member of the clan.

The third sister, Caridad, also told the INQUIRER yesterday that she was not happy about the sale. She said the painting "belongs to the Barbosa house."

She was referring to their ancestral home in Quiapo, now a shrine called the "Bahay Nakpil Bautista."

"We have been set aside, *wala na kaming pakialam. Nalulungkot kami.*" (We've been ignored. We are sad), she told the INQUIRER on the phone.

But she did not want to comment on the circumstances of the sale.

"I am a woman of prayer. The will of God will prevail," she said, adding her belief that the spirit of her departed uncle Bautista would intervene in the painting's fate.

Caridad remembers the painting prominently displayed in the *sala* of their uncle's house where they were born and raised.

She said guests would marvel at the painting especially when told that it was Bautista together with Luna and Rizal in the background. "That painting has been there all the time," she recalled. She left the ancestral home around 1940 when she got married.

Garcia felt for the Nakpil women. "We're going to invite the two old women who have not seen the painting for 30 years," he told the INQUIRER, apparently still unaware that there is a third living Nakpil sister.

"I want them to be present when we open the crate," he said.

He said the Nakpil sisters would be the special guests at the "unveiling" and installation of the painting in its home.

Garcia said only a small photo of the painting was left with the Nakpil matriarch so he decided to have a reproduction as his gift to her.

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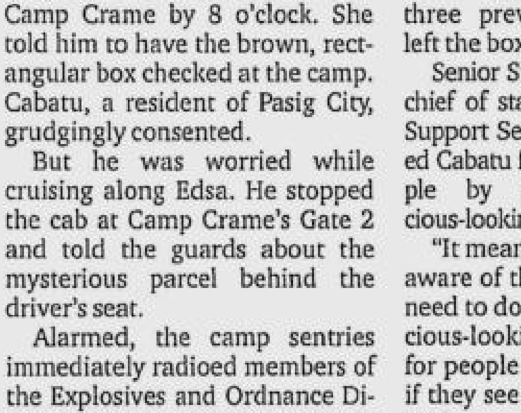

MEMORIAL to a 19-M lotto winner, a reminder once again that you can't take it with you. DENNIS SABANGAN

Yes to Luna, no to GSIS

From page A1

the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard while it stopped the payment of claims of government employees due to unavailability of funds.

"But to use another P50 million from our fund—this time for a painting—is double whammy for us," Gaite said in a statement.

He said the money for the painting could have been used to increase retirement and pension benefits, open up new windows for loans and speed up the payment of other benefits.

A group of teachers of the University of the Philippines noted that the money spent for "Parisian Life" was more than half of what the GSIS owed UP employees in retirement benefits.

The Congress of Teachers/Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (Contend) said the GSIS had canceled the P84 million in retirement gratuity funds for UP employees for this year.

"I really don't know why the GSIS had to intervene in this issue. This should have been left to the National Historical Institute or similar agencies," Contend spokesperson Danilo Arao said.

He said that instead of competing with foreign bidders for the painting, the government should have just talked to the Nakpil family and tried to negotiate for a settlement.

Solita "Winnie" Monsod, television host and UP professor, lamented in her radio program why it had to be lowly government employees who had to save the Luna.

Monsod scored the "incompetence and ineptness of our cultural authorities" for failing to classify the painting as a cultural treasure, a move which could have prevented the sale of the historic work.

She questioned not only the National Museum's failure to do its job of protecting cultural heritage but also the haste in issuing the export permit.

Big gamble

In the Senate, Sen. Manny Villar said the purchase of the painting was a big gamble on the part of Garcia amid the economic crisis.

"I just don't know whether Garcia should be gambling with the members' money," Villar said.

He said that while he was happy that the painting would be shipped back to Manila, he said that spending P50 million of the GSIS members' money without consulting them may not be a good business decision.

While Garcia's objective may have been noble as the painting is a national treasure, the welfare of GSIS members should be the primary consideration, according to Villar.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said it was improper to use members' money without authority on a piece of art no matter how valuable it was.

The painting should have been purchased by the government and given to the National Museum for public display and safekeeping, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

He wondered whether the money spent for the painting would affect the salary and housing loan applications of GSIS members.

Mixed feelings

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said she had mixed feelings on the return of the painting to the Philippines using GSIS money.

"I'm happy that the masterpiece would now be returned to the Philippines where it rightfully belongs but sad that the GSIS had to dig from its P20 billion in excess liquidity to buy the painting."

Oreta asked why the GSIS, if it was indeed awash in money, had not funneled a hefty part of it to members in the form of more benefits.

Congress probe?

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran called for a congressional investigation of what he said was the anomalous use of funds and the abuse of authority on the part of Garcia.

"What right has Garcia to use the GSIS fund to purchase the painting? Granted that the Juan Luna painting is an important part of Philippine art history, the GSIS is still not the body responsible for its recovery and restoration," Beltran said.

He said the GSIS would have raise the contributions from its members to replace the money spent on the painting.

At present, a member's contribution amounts to at least 9 percent of his or her average monthly compensation, plus another 2 percent if a member's salary exceeds the P16,000 limit.

GSIS contributions have steadily increased by 44 percent to 122 percent since 1997, according to Gaite.

"But the benefits and services we receive from the GSIS do not increase correspondingly," he said.

"For years, members have been demanding better services and increased package of benefits from the GSIS. But what they give us are questionable investments, behest loans and *"barya-baryang"* yearly dividends which are not even commensurate to the amounts we have contributed," he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

HAVE yourself a merry little Christmas despite the bomb scare, the suspicious package brought by a taxi driver to Camp Crame being one more sign of the nervous times.
JOAN BONDOC

Halloween becomes . . .

From page A1

Crame set off alarm bells at the headquarters of the Philippine National Police. Camp guards feared it was a high-powered bomb. Explosives experts swung into action and blew up the box—only to find a harmless figurine of Santa Claus inside.

And it all started because an unidentified civilian employee was running late and didn't want to miss the 8 a.m. flag-raising ceremony at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

The driver, Cesar Cabatu, 25, told police that he didn't notice the box until he was told about it by a passenger he had picked up past 7 a.m. in Guadalupe, Makati City.

He said his first impulse was to pull the car over at the shoulder and call the police. But the passenger said she needed to be at Camp Crame by 8 o'clock. She told him to have the brown, rectangular box checked at the camp. Cabatu, a resident of Pasig City, grudgingly consented.

But he was worried while cruising along Edsa. He stopped the cab at Camp Crame's Gate 2 and told the guards about the mysterious parcel behind the driver's seat.

Alarmed, the camp sentries immediately radioed members of the Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) and ordered colleagues and civilians to stay clear of the cab.

From afar, policemen and civilians watched with bated breath as explosives experts gingerly pulled the box out with a pulley, placed it on a truck and brought it to the camp's parade grounds for detonation.

The explosives experts "disrupted" the box with water and got a pleasant surprise: A stuffed, grinning 12-inch-tall Santa Claus lugging a sack of goodies.

With that, everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Except Cabatu. Police grilled him for two hours before letting him go.

"While driving I was worried sick that the bomb could blow up anytime, because we've been having this bomb scare the past week. Good thing it did not," he later told reporters. He said he could not tell who among his three previous passengers had left the box in his cab.

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, chief of staff of the Headquarters Support Service (HSS), commended Cabatu for setting a good example by reporting the suspicious-looking box to the police.

"It means that some people are aware of the basic things that we need to do when we notice suspicious-looking objects. It's a lesson for people to report to the police if they see anything like this," he said.

GSIS invites Nakpil sisters to 'Parisian' unveiling

From page A1

and widow of Andres Bonifacio.

Two of the three sisters were unhappy over the sale of the painting, even if GSIS' acquisition meant that the Luna will stay in the country.

The painting was originally owned by their uncle Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin, who was featured in the painting together with Luna and Jose Rizal in a cafe in Paris in 1892.

Ramon Nakpil II, a descendant of Julio Nakpil's brother Ramon, sold the painting as "his inheritance" despite opposition from the Nakpil matriarch.

Mike Mallari, son-in-law of Francisca, said the Nakpil matriarch never knew that the painting had been returned to the country on Saturday and promptly shipped back for sale in Hong Kong on Sunday. "She feels bad because she feels the painting belongs to the entire clan," he said.

Mallari said Francisca, who only learned of the developments from INQUIRER reports, was unhappy over the sale. "We stand by what she said, that the painting belongs to the entire Nakpil clan and not just to him (Ramon)," he said.

Mallari said his mother-in-law is revered by the clan because she is known to be a "woman of high principle and conviction."

CHRISTIE'S auction staffers hold Luna's painting on Sunday at the JW Marriot Hotel in Hong Kong.
AP

No will

Sharp at 96, Francisca said in the INQUIRER interview that there was no will that left the painting to any particular member of the clan.

The third sister, Caridad, also told the INQUIRER yesterday that she was not happy about the sale.

She said the painting "belongs to the Barbosa house."

She was referring to their ancestral home in Quiapo, now a shrine called the "Bahay Nakpil Bautista."

"We have been set aside, *wala na kaming pakialam. Nalulungkot kami.*" (We've been ignored. We are sad), she told the INQUIRER on the phone.

But she did not want to comment on the circumstances of the sale.

"I am a woman of prayer. The will of God will prevail," she said, adding her belief that the spirit of her departed uncle Bautista would intervene in the painting's fate.

Caridad remembers the painting prominently displayed in the *sala* of their uncle's house where they were born and raised.

She said guests would marvel at the painting especially when told that it was Bautista together with Luna and Rizal in the background. "That painting has been there all the time," she recalled. She left the ancestral home around 1940 when she got married.

Garcia felt for the Nakpil women. "We're going to invite the two old women who have not seen the painting for 30 years," he told the INQUIRER, apparently still unaware that there is a third living Nakpil sister.

"I want them to be present when we open the crate," he said.

He said the Nakpil sisters would be the special guests at the "unveiling" and installation of the painting in its home.

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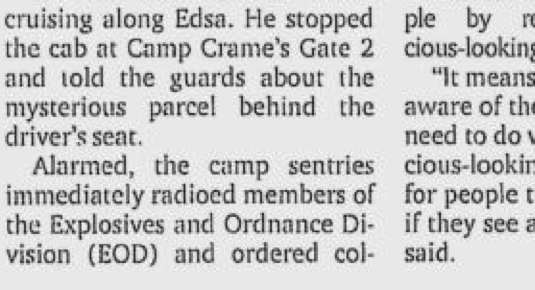

MEMORIAL to a 19-M lotto winner, a reminder once again that you can't take it with you.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Russia admits gas killed 115 hostages

From page A1

were shot dead by the Chechen rebels before the pre-dawn assault.

Seltsovsky said 646 people were still in hospital, including 150 in intensive care, 45 of them in a grave condition, suffering from the after-effects of the powerful gas.

Early reports on Saturday said only around 10 hostages had died, suggesting that the operation had been more successful than had first seemed possible.

But the death toll rose inexorably. During Saturday it hit 67, then over 90, before reaching 117 on Sunday.

A Dutch woman and a Kazakh teenager died from gas poisoning overnight, NTV channel reported quoting doctors. They were among four non-Russian hostages who have been confirmed dead, including an Austrian woman and a Belarussian woman.

Seltsovsky suggested that the toll could rise further.

"Normally you don't die from inhaling such a substance," Seltsovsky was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

But Setsovsky noted that the hostages were in weak physical condition after their three-day ordeal.

General anaesthetic

Moscow chief anaesthetist Yevgeny Yevdokimov described the gas as a "psychotropic" substance normally used as a general anaesthetic.

In high doses, it changes the basic functions of the body, possibly leading to a loss of consciousness and impairing breathing and blood circulation, he added.

Doctors had complained that they did not know how to treat the ailing because they had not been told what gas had been used.

However one Russian expert said Sunday the gas used was a non-lethal chemical weapon of a kind developed during the Cold War.

Normally such a gas "could temporarily neutralize scores of enemy troops, and its effects should have been reversible," a doctor of chemistry and chief of Russia's chemical security union Lev Fedorov, told Moscow Echo radio.

He said the hostages should have been supplied with antidote as soon as they were rescued, and if the mortality rate was this high despite antidote use, it would indicate that the gas concentration was extremely high.

More than 800 people had been held hostage since Wednesday by a gang of dynamite-strapped Chechen militants who stormed into the theater during an evening performance of a popular musical and threatened to blow up the building if the war in Chechnya were not ended.

Good fight

Despite the heavy gassing, the hostage-takers were aware enough to put up a good fight, one of the special service rescue units claimed.

Many of the guerrillas "were fully conscious, and we had to act very precisely, because we had no time," one trooper of the Alpha special service squad told reporters.

As soon as the rescue squads were in, they were greeted by a storm of gunfire, Alpha troopers said, adding that fierce resistance met them at the doorstep of every room that sheltered the hostage-takers.

Within the theater hall itself, where the hostages were kept, terrorists perched on the stage opened fire on the storming troopers, and one guerrilla woman tried to throw a grenade at them.

A number of squad troopers were "wounded or stunned" as the guerrillas were well trained, but none were apparently killed, Alpha officials said.

All 50 hostage-takers, including women, were killed in the raid early Saturday that President Vladimir Putin described as a success in an address to the nation.

Near impossible

"We achieved the near impossible, saving hundreds, hundreds of people," Putin said. "We proved that Russia cannot be brought to its knees."

He acknowledged the high price paid for ending the crisis, saying: "Now I want to address the families and friends of those who died. We were not able to save everyone. Forgive us."

For Putin, the rising death toll was an uncomfortable reminder of two other tragedies which have blighted his term of office.

In August 2000, the nuclear submarine Kursk sunk after a torpedo exploded on board, killing 118. Putin was widely criticized for a perceived failure to act decisively then.

Earlier this year a helicopter was shot down over Chechnya with a similar number of deaths, despite Putin's repeated claims that the Chechen war, launched in September 1999—months ahead of the election which made him president—was all but over.

AFP, with a report from Reuters

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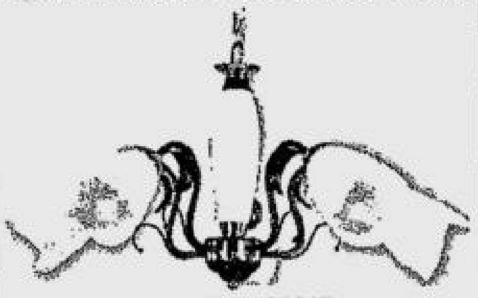

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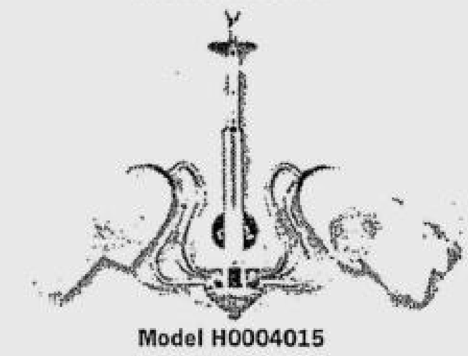

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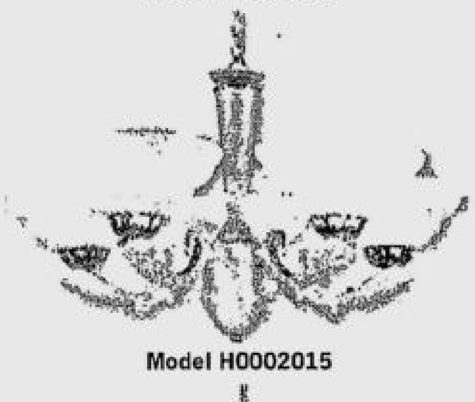

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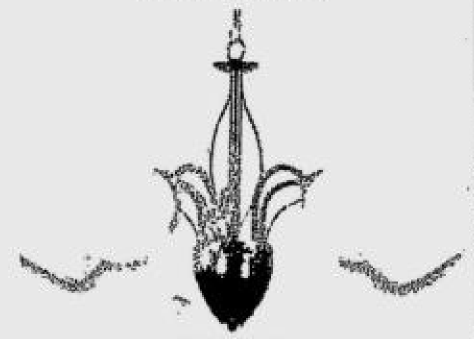

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Bata wins in Poland

EFREN "Bata" Reyes retained his World Pool League title yesterday after a 9-4 victory over world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland in Warsaw, Poland.

The story was relayed to the INQUIRER yesterday by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Reyes' manager.

Reyes won US$15,000 and Strickland $10,000.

The arena was jampacked to the rafters and the appreciative crowd was treated to superb plays by the legendary Reyes.

From a 1-1 tie, Reyes broke and ran the next to go 3-1 up on Strickland.

The American tried to mount a rally in the fifth, but missed the 2 ball and Reyes cleared to further increase his lead.

Egged on by a Pinoy contingent in the crowd, Reyes went on to post a commanding 5-1 lead.

Strickland bounced back in the next rack when Reyes came up dry on the break.

The combination shot was used to good effect in the next rack when Strickland whacked down a 5/9 to cut the deficit to 5-3.

Earl made a ball on his next break and immediately saw a chance of a 1/9 combination which he executed superbly to go just one rack behind.

In the next, without a great position on the 2 ball, Earl slashed at it but it fell safe. Earl started to pot the balls via combinations on the 2 but bounced the cue ball all over the table. He next misplayed a safety on the 5 ball, and Efren cleared from there to go two racks ahead.

Reyes got a ball down off the break but allowed Earl back in as nothing was on. Strickland couldn't find any opening though and eventually Efren cleared the table.

Nothing on the break for Reyes allowed Strickland a chance to save himself as he laid a snooker on the 1 ball but Bata brilliantly cannoned the cue ball off the 1 and into the brown 7 to set up another clearance.

The final rack of the tournament saw plenty of safety exchanges, but with the momentum on his side, Reyes ran the last few tricky balls to seal the title as the crowd in the arena went nuts.

Reyes thanked his supporters.

"It's great having Filipinos to support me in the audience but I would like to thank the Polish people who have been very wonderful to me," he said. "I look forward to coming back next year to defend my title."

REYES: Back in form. PDI PHOTO

Jolet best motorcycle rider ever

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao's feat of capturing his sixth straight road racing crown has further firmed up his stature as the best in Philippine motorcycle sports history.

Jao, backed up by Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering, sealed his title-clinching feat with a bang as he pulled another sweep in the final leg of the Shell Advance Superbike Series last weekend in the Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

He became the first rider to achieve the feat in both motocross and road race events.

"This win is for all fans and supporters who continue to believe and inspire me to go on. And this one is for my sponsors Shell Advance and Rolex engineering who trusted me all throughout this series," said Jao.

Jao was so dominating that he pulled off a wide margin over his rivals early in this race sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sport and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corporation.

In the first race, he immediately broke away from the pack, posting a fastest laptime of 1:41.711 on the second lap to finish the race in 28:56.909 or 14.870 seconds ahead of Speedeffex' Benjo Mendoza who clocked 29:11.779.

Sampaguita rally Nov. 30

THE 3RD Motoring Today Sampaguita Rally may yet see the largest starting grid ever in the history of the sport when it runs at the Clark Special Economic Zone on Nov. 30.

Organized by STV, Sunshine Television Ventures, through its flagship TV show Motoring Today, the event was last staged in Subic last summer with a record participation of close to 50 vehicles.

This "on time, all the time" rally has become the most popular motor sport as it does not require special equipment or vehicle modification for a participant to be competitive. Winning is hinged on teamwork, time management, route navigation mastery and precision driving.

STV president and TV producer Ray "Butch" Gamboa said the vehicles would be divided into teams representing Toyota Motor Phils., Honda Car Phils., Isuzu Phils. Corp., Ford Group Phils., Mitsubishi Motors Phils. and General Motors Automobiles Phils. and regular participating privateers.

The car rally flags off at the entrance of the Clark Special Economic Zone and will run through the road network inside the CSEZ where participants will get to view scenic sights at the former US air base.

Rally officials headed by "living legend" Pocholo Ramirez and veteran rally organizer Jun Espino are introducing a new bonus round to enable those who have accumulated demerits in the first leg to catch up.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Yearbook 2001 - New York Giants, 8:30 a.m., Philadelphia Eagles, 9 a.m., ESPN

NFL Blast, 9:30 a.m., ESPN

NFL - New York Giants vs Philadelphia Eagles, 10 a.m. (r - 8:30 a.m.), ESPN

GOLF: Buy.Com Championship 2002, 2 p.m. (r), Star Sports

LPGA Tournament of Champions, 10 p.m., Star Sports

POOL: 1999 World Pool League - Efren Reyes vs Jim Rempe Finals, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN

SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2002, 6 p.m. (r), ESPN

SOCCER: EPL - Bolton Wanderers vs Sunderland, 7 a.m. (r), Star Sports

EPL Highlights, 1:30 p.m., ESPN, 7 p.m., Star Sports

Spanish Football League, 8 p.m., Star Sports

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MSI DIGILAND [illegible]

Torion out of All-Filipino Cup after undergoing surgery

By Dennis U. Eroa

FLAMBOYANT playmaker Jimwell Torion will miss the entire Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup after undergoing surgery in the left knee last Saturday at the St. Luke's Medical Center.

Coach Yeng Guiao yesterday confirmed that the 5-foot-9 Torion went under the knife due to a bone-related injury which can be traced to a car accident he suffered early morning of Jan. 7, 2000, the very same day of the PBA annual draft.

Torion, a rags to riches story, was one of the five local players, including Davonn Harp, whom Red Bull elevated to the pro ranks.

"It will take two months for Jimwell to recover," said Guiao. Guiao said Torion felt pain in his left knee after the Thunder won their second straight Commissioner's Cup title.

"No ligament was involved in this type of injury. Dr. Raul Canlas, who operated on Torion's knee, said the injury started when his knee got banged up during the accident," said Guiao, winner of the 2001 coach of the year award.

The absence of Torion is going to hurt Guiao's well-oiled rotation. Torion sank a crucial triple as Red Bull frustrated Talk N' Text, 67-60, in Game Seven of the best-of-seven series for this year's Commissioner's Cup plum. The former Salazar Institute of Technology stalwart, son of fish vendors, eventually shared the finals MVP award with Harp.

"We need to adjust very well," said Guiao, whose able stewardship enabled the Thunder to sizzle after just two years of joining the league.

Anton Villoria, who like Torion was a product of the PBL, and Willie Miller will alternate in the point, although Junthy Valenzuela, at 6-foot-3, can also orchestrate Red Bull's plays.

Red Bull shares the lead with Purefoods in the ongoing All-Filipino with two straight victories. Guiao's troopers are determined to prove to the fans and their rivals that they can win sans the the imports by topping the All-Filipino title.

Having an injury isn't new for Torion, who has already improved on his shots selection under Guiao. Fact is, Torion earned his nickname Typhoon from sportswriters for his explosive ways on and off the court.

During his rookie year, Torion aggravated an old right shoulder injury he suffered in the PBL as Red Bull beat Sta. Lucia in the 2000 Governors Cup. Thanks to the seatbelt, a sleepy Torion escaped death when a truck rammed his car at an Ermita intersection in an early morning accident. He suffered facial injuries and missed what he described as the "momentous" event in his life–the PBA draft.

Iligan entry Friendship gold winner

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY–Iligan City owned the distinction of copping the first gold medal of the Mindanao Friendship Games as Rovel Canillo won the lung-busting 10,000-meter run at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex here.

Following the footsteps of his cousin, national team long-distance runner Crisanto Canillo, the Baguio-based Air Force man breasted the tape with a 33:42.05 clocking, overshadowing the efforts of two homegrown bets from Bukidnon.

"Masyadong mainit dito hindi katulad sa Baguio. *Kung malamig po dito baka napaganda ko pa ang oras ko.* (It's too hot down here unlike in Baguio. I could have finished with a better time had the weather been cooler)," said the 25-year-old Canillo, a native of Lanao Del Norte who opted to don the colors of Iligan City.

Bukidnon's Roger Sawin-Ai finished almost five ticks later (33:46.92) to snatch the silver medal while provincemate Jonel Laguido got the bronze after 33 minutes and 59.50 seconds.

General Santos, known for its tuna industry, also struck gold courtesy of Luisa Framen in the women's long jump finals.

Framen cleared 4.63 meters to win the gold, putting to naught the efforts of Davao City's Daryll Joy Guilano and Leonila Angtigra of Compostela, who both registered a 4.39-meter jump.

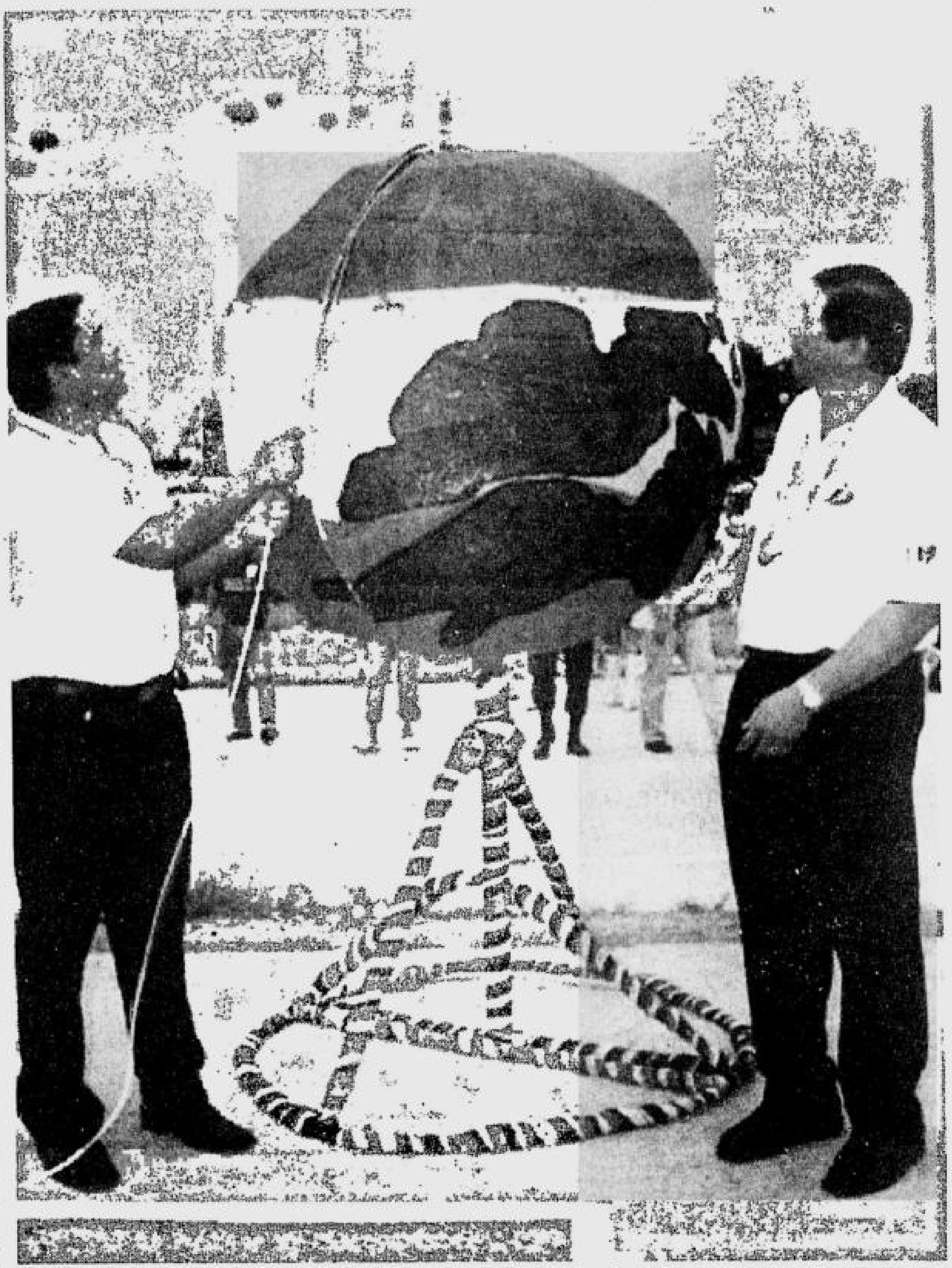
Ilocos Norte, a guest team in the meet designed to unify the entire region through sports, also got its first gold medal after Hana Erika Sia made her province proud by besting four other rivals in women's shot put.

Sia hurled a distance of 9.74 meters, good enough to pocket the gold and surpass the efforts of Tangub City's Jonalyn Federica (9.29m) and Siara Grace Tesaluna of Davao City (8.97m).

Federica, however, ended up as the official gold-medal winner by virtue of Ilocos Norte's status as guest squad in the games while Tesaluna notched the silver.

Ilocos Norte, which sent a total of 20 athletes, 13 in track and field and seven in taekwondo, saw the meet as a good opportunity to hone up the skills and talents of its athletes.

In badminton, Cagayan De Oro absorbed a twin debacle when it lost in the finals of the men's and women's team event. Misamis Oriental beat the hosts in the men's division while Davao City repeated CDO's ordeal in the women's event.



PSC Chair Eric Buhain (left) and PSC Commissioner Butch Ramirez lead the releasing of balloons and doves during the opening of the 2nd Mindanao Friendship Games on Sunday at the Pelaez Sports Complex in Cagayan de Oro City.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Ming leads global talents into NBA

WASHINGTON–When Yao Ming plays his first National Basketball Association regular-season game Wednesday, the 2.26m Chinese giant will lead a record charge of global talent into the elite league.

More than 60 international players are expected in uniform this season, breaking last year's record of 52, and none is more eagerly awaited than Yao, the first player without US experience ever taken first in the NBA Draft.

Eleven days after arriving from China, Yao will lead the Houston Rockets at Indiana having already handled a whirlwind of publicity and gained valuable experience from exhibition games.

"When you watch on TV, it seems easy," Yao said. "When you're out there playing, it is really difficult. The NBA is not something everybody can do. I felt like a rookie."

The 22-year-old goliath has already been on a Sports Illustrated cover and in ESPN advertisements and attended a golf outing as well as a reception for Chinese president Jiang Zemin. The Rockets sell him as "The Next Big Thing" AFP

Mabuhay Miles invitational golfest Nov. 8

TOP business executives and frequent flyers from Manila and the world over take to the fairways once again, this time at the historic Wack Wack Golf and Country Club for the 2002 Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational Golf Tournament on Nov. 8.

Organized by Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles for its most frequent travelers, the tournament is actually the 10th edition of what was once called the Mabuhay Club Invitational Golf Tournament.

The tournament has been renamed in keeping with the recent launch of the airline's world-class frequent flyer program, Mabuhay Miles.

Bones Floro will be defending the title he captured last year at the Eagle Ridge. This time, Floro will be playing on home grounds as he is the golf director of Wack Wack.

Sponsored by Airbus Industrie and Boeing, the tournament is also supported by corporate sponsors DHL Worldwide Express Philippine Corporation, Singapore Petroleum Company and HSBC and minor sponsors Boysen Paint, Department of Tourism/Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation, Nestlé Philippines Inc., Pagcor/Casino Filipino, Spring and Subic Bay Distribution Inc.

The Century Park Hotel and The Peninsula Manila are the Official Hotels providing special rates for players, and the Official Insurer is Malayan Insurance.

Hole-in-one prizes are cars Toyota Camry 2.0E by Toyota Motors Philippines and Audi A4 by Auto Prominence Corporation, exclusive distributor of Audi in the Philippines, and a PAL round-trip first-class ticket to Los Angeles.

TRIUMPHANT TRIO

Juvic Pagunsan (extreme left), Jerome Delariarte and Angelo Que arrive to a hero's welcome yesterday from their superb stint in the World Golf Amateurs in Kuala Lumpur where Que and the country placed third, respectively, in individual and team plays. Rod Feliciano, NGAP president, will fete them tonight.

ROGER MARGALLO

2nd WGAP Cup slated next month

THE SECOND edition of the WGAP Cup which sends the top four teams of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit into a match play showdown will be held in three exclusive courses next month.

Sta. Elena, the defending champion, led the four qualifiers with Alabang, Villamor and Southwoods earning the three other slots after the completion of the eight-leg elimination series.

They will be contesting the prestigious WGAP Cup designed by Impy Pilapil to be played in three different weeks starting at Riviera on Nov. 6. It moves to the Country Club on Nov. 11 before winding up at Wack Wack on Nov. 19.

Each team will be fielding eight players who will play four different formats: alternate, aggregate, bestball and scramble.

Sta. Elena re-asserted its might in the series, copping the overall titles in Class A and Class B divisions with Villamor taking the Class C title.

Sta. Elena edged perennial rival Manila Southwoods for the Class A plum and defeated Alabang for Class B title. Villamor won over Alabang in Class C.

The overall individual plum went to Princess Katigbak of Mt. Malarayat, finishing ahead of Navy's Leni Cabili.

"We had a very exciting season with so many clubs getting involved in the race for the four finals slots. We expect the finals to be tighter than it was last year," said WGAP president Gina Tuason.

Byrd breakthrough

PINE MOUNTAIN, Georgia–Newcomer Jonathan Byrd fired a nine-under par 63 to pull off a stunning first PGA triumph here Sunday at the $3.7-million Buick Chalenge. Byrd had two eagles and six birdies to edge David Toms by a stroke and capture the $666,000 top prize. *AFP*

An execution, not a contest

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

OUR sportscasters should learn a thing or two from the just-ended World Series. Following the victory of the Anaheim Angels, the men behind the mike fell silent for what seemed like an eternity, allowing the viewers to savor the mostly dramatic scenes in the aftermath of one of the most spectacular comebacks in world baseball history.

It's the same thing after each conclusion of every NBA Finals. The confettis falling, the crowd roaring in delight, the winners hugging each other, the losers with heads hanging from despair. Just seeing them unfold before your eyes, you see nothing but poetry.

First, it was South Korea.

The Koreans had to rise from the grave to win the Asian Games basketball crown. The Koreans outlasted the Chinese in overtime, 102-100, for the biggest shock in the 14th Asiad in Busan, South Korea. It ended China's basketball domination in Asia that began in Seoul in 1986.

But that happened only because the Koreans had escaped with a 69-68 win over the Philippines on a three by Lee Sang Min at the buzzer. Things like that happening would usually lead to the unexpected–such as Korea's climb to the top.

Second, the Anaheim Angels transformed a 5-0 deficit to a 6-5 victory in Game 6 and, as if mandated by fate, the franchise founded in 1961 went on to beat the heavily favored San Francisco Giants, 4-1, in yesterday's Game 7. For the Angels to be able to erase a 5-run shortage with two innings left, why that was something pregnant with voodo.

Upsets they were called.

But to me, they happened because sports, like art, also imitates life. At times, an event happens when we least expect it to happen.

But not in the Pacquiao fight last weekend in Davao. That one was a totally different story altogether.

As I said, Manny Pacquiao, the Filipino southpaw but with an axe for a right, will never be beaten for as long as he stays in shape every time he defends his 122-lb crown.

He's so strong a puncher that only heavyweights like Lennox Lewis will survive him.

He's so courageous a fighter that he would not mind battling an opponent wearing gloves with stones inside them.

If you saw him fight Thai Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym Saturday night, you'd know what I mean. That was an execution, not a contest.

It was not a back alley fight between two men armed with knives. It was a Hollywood scene showing the pyscho-killer clubbing his hapless victim with a pipe.

Against Pacquiao, you need Hannibal Lecter to defend you. Not even Tyson's rabies would be of any help.

Maravilla to play his 42nd Fil-Am

IF there's one golfing gentleman from the old school with old school values who has fond memories and rate the annual Fil-Am one of the best, he's no other than Francisco "Paking" Maravilla.

"Since my first try in 1950, I find the Fil-Am one of the best. I had one heck of a time playing," Maravilla said. And he is the only one who had played in 42 out of 44 years up to 1994. "I certainly have fond memories. To those who had played with me, they know what I mean. And to those who will play this year, they will soon find out."

The 53rd edition of the Fil-Am Golf Invitational will be played from Dec. 2 to 7 at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay in Baguio City. Smart Communications is presenting the year's tournament together with major sponsors CAP, Northwest Airlines and Wilson. Bluecross, Caltex, San Miguel Corp., and UBIX Corp. are the other sponsors.

Maravilla, now 77, first played a a bull-strong 35 for Iloilo Golf Club in the event Camp John Hay Commander Tucker West, Archie Black and Filipino movie star Rogelio dela Rosa organized in 1949.

"My best finish was as Fil Division's Class B champion," he said. "And from 1950 to 1994, I missed only one tournament. But don't ask me when because that was a long time ago."

But when it comes to his contemporaries, his memory is sharp: "Celso Tuason, Johnny Cuadrado, Baguio Country Club chairman for life Nanoy Ilusori, Jun Coscolluela, Mars Arena, Eddie Vargas, Domeng Cepe Sr., among others."

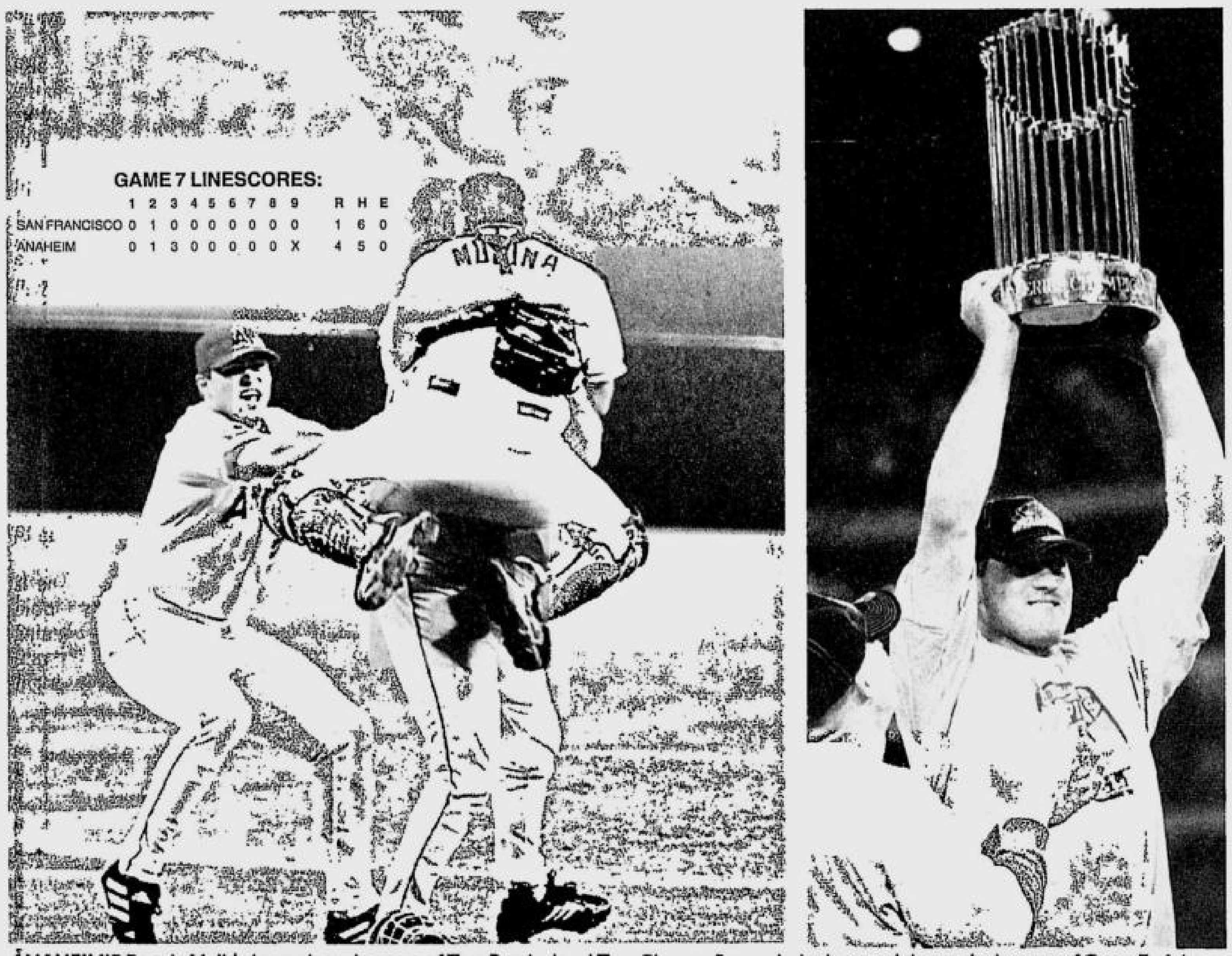
Maravilla added, "the most notable players who competed were future top players. Lee Trivino known as the Super Mex, and Orville Moody, aka the Sarge. Both went on to win the US Open."

And he has still vivid memories of two Taiwanese [illegible] he played: Chen Tze Chung and Chen Tze Ming.

"Chen Tze Chung, who was more known now as T.C. Chen almost won the US Open in 1985, you know. He went on to share second place," he said. "Those were the days."

FIRST IN FRANCHISE HISTORY

Angel miracle complete



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ANAHEIM'S Bengie Molina jumps into the arms of Troy Percival and Troy Glaus as fireworks ignite to celebrate the last out of Game 7 of the World Series. At right, Glaus hoists his MVP trophy.

AFP

By Ben Walker
AP Sportswriter

ANAHEIM, California—The never-say-die Anaheim Angels beat Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants, 4-1, on Sunday for the franchise's first World Series championship in 42 years.

Rookie pitcher John Lackey and outfielder Garret Anderson led the way in Game 7, capping a remarkable turnaround for a team that seemed to rally past every team in their way.

Anaheim third baseman Troy Glaus was voted World Series Most valuable Player after hitting .385 with three home runs and eight RBIs.

"These fans have been waiting a long, long time for this," Glaus said. "And I know we're all happy to be part of the team to bring it to them."

The series marked the first time that Bonds–the top slugger in baseball–reached the Fall Classic. He had one of the most dominant performances in Series history, but the pesky Angels were just too much for the Giants.

A day after it blew a 5-0 lead in the seventh inning, San Francisco never got close to winning its first title. Bonds went 1-for-3 with a walk to close out one of the most dominant Series performances ever, yet it wasn't enough.

"The turning point was basically they came back last night," Giants manager Dusty Baker said.

Bonds closed out one of the most dominant overall Series performances ever, yet it wasn't enough. When it was over, all he could do was watch from the corner of the dugout as the Angels celebrated.

"I went 1-for-3 with a walk, that's a good day. Am I supposed to go 3-for-3 with three home runs?" Bonds said. "What do you want from me?"

The highest-scoring Series in history came down to pitching, as it always seems to do in October. Behind Lackey and the bullpen, Anaheim had too much to win baseball's first all wild-card matchup.

"I can't believe it, man," Anderson said. "It's been a long year –a testament to the guys who never gave up."

Bonds wound up 8-for-17 (.471) with four homers, a .700 on-base percentage and 1.294 slugging percentage. *AP*

Glaus named MVP

ANAHEIM, California—Troy Glaus can stop throwing his equipment now.

He's tossed his helmet and tossed his bat, but he's not going to throw around his World Series Most valuable Player trophy.

Glaus, who won the honor after Anaheim's 4-1 victory over San Francisco on Sunday, is the Angels' fire. *AP*

Rookie Game 7 hero

ANAHEIM, California—John Lackey looked nothing like a rookie, pitching with poise from the moment he walked to the mound.

Lackey shut down Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants, leading the Anaheim Angels to their first championship in their 42-year history with a 4-1 victory Sunday.

The win made Lackey the first rookie starter to win the seventh game of the Series in 93 years. *AP*

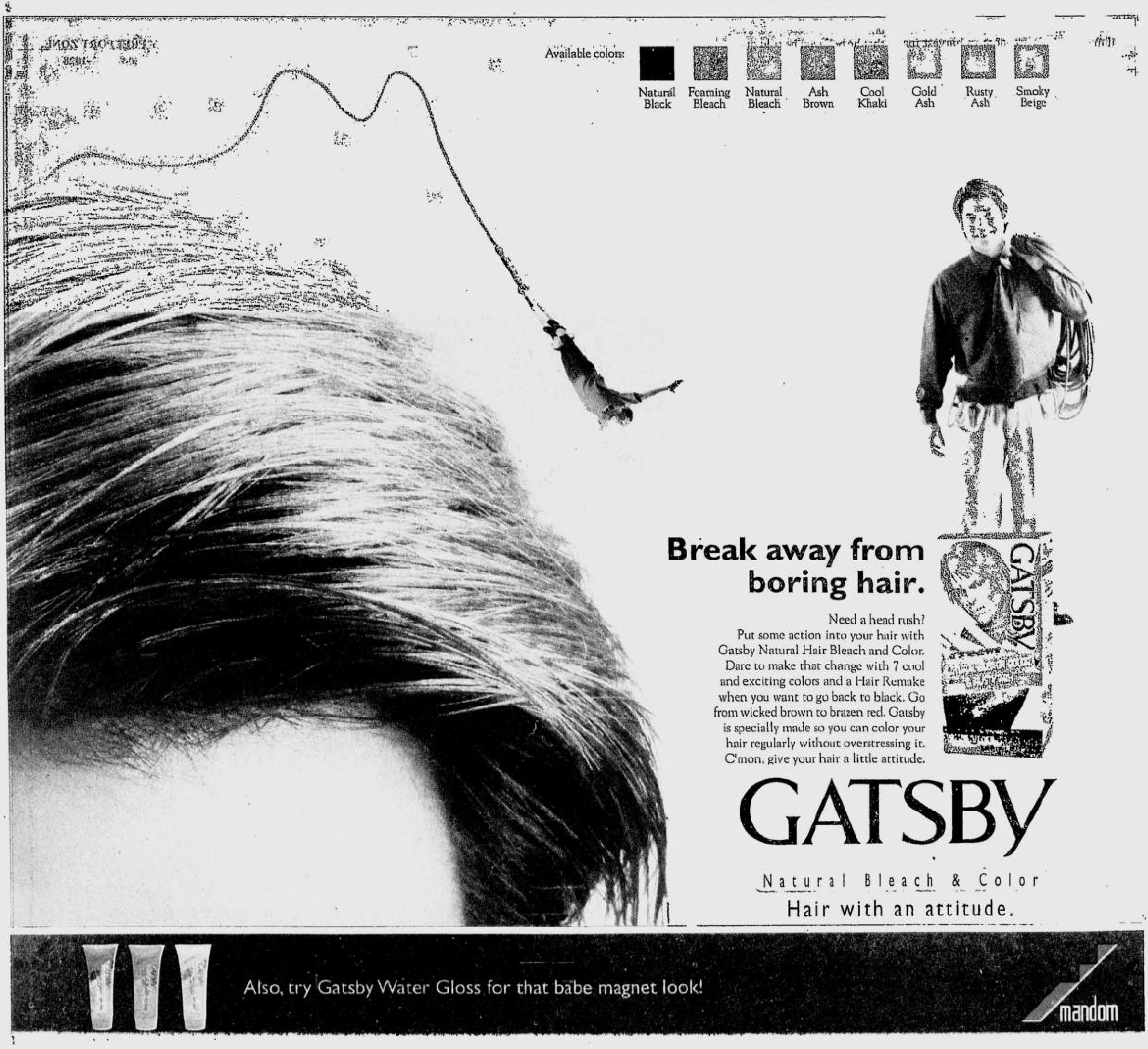
World Series has hollow ring for Bonds

ANAHEIM, California—All Barry Bonds could do was watch the celebration from a dark corner in the losers' dugout.

No more glorious home runs. No more trots around the bases. No ring.

That's what he will be ringing in his ears all winter long, maybe for the rest of his career, maybe for the rest of his life.

"I went 1-for-3 with a walk. That's a good day," he said Sunday after San Francisco's 4-1 Game 7 loss to Anaheim. "Am I supposed to go 3-for-3 with three home runs? What do you want from me?" *AP*



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Mayor grabs lead in exec chess tourney

DENTIST Jenny Mayor wrested the lead in the current grand prix standings in the Success section, while engineer Gunnar Abelido is showing the way in the Prosperity section after four legs of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2002.

Mayor, winner of the second and fourth legs, paces the elite pack with 56 points, a point ahead of Ryan Ruiz going into the fifth leg on Oct. 26 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. Lawyer Quirino Sagario, the erstwhile grand prix leader, dropped to third place with 53 points.

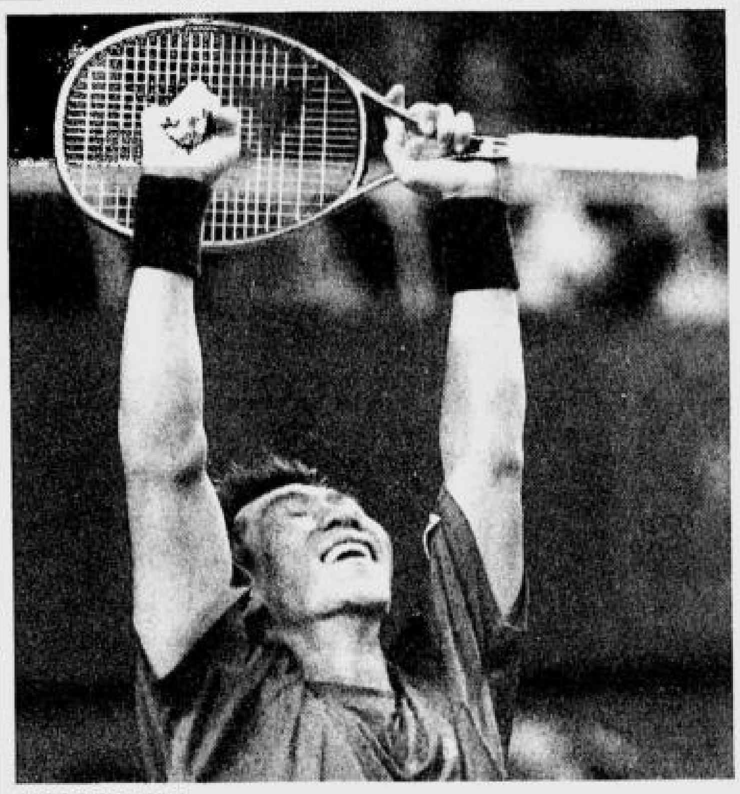
PEACE 2002 is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Call the Acca at tel. no. 892-8759 for more information about PEACE 2002.

The top 10 standings: (Success Section) Jenny Mayor, 56 points; Ryan Ruiz, 55; Quirino Sagario, 53; Dennis San Juan, 52; Noel Garcia, 47; Gary Legaspi, 45; Ricky Navalta, 42; Robert Arellano, 39; Tyrone Guya, 37; and Giovanni Dy, 36.

Prosperity Section: Gunnar Abelido, 46 points; Ronald Donasco, 44; Cyrus Atienza, 43; Augustus Ata, 41; Jason Manlunas, 37; Abraham Dalagan, 35; Ramil Acosta, 34; Rey paul Hechanova, 33; Rolando Gangozo, 29; and Valentino Bautista and Reenan Hornilla, 27 each.

BANGKOK MEET

Young RP tracksters see action



CHAMPION

Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand jubilates after defeating Marcelo Rios of Chile in their final match at the Stockholm Open tennis tournament in the Royal Tennis Hall. Srichaphan won, 6-7 (2-7), 6-0, 6-3 and 6-2. AFP

Marc Anthony Reyes

BANGKOK—Five promising Filipino tracksters take a crack at spots in the national team for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games next year when they compete in the Asian junior athletics championships at the Tammasat Sports Complex here.

Considered as the next wave of athletic stars, long jumpers Maricel Sibog, middle distance runners Marjohn Salanawon and Rosel Espinas, sprinter Ralph Naldy Soguilon and hurdler Julie Rose Forbes see action against 700 other teenaged tracksters from 37 countries.

This early, athletics chief Go Teng Kok promised to give them berths in the Vietnam SEA Games even as the national team starts its buildup for the biennial meet as well as the Asian championships which the country will host also next year.

Sibog, an 18-year-old National Open and Palaro champion, was to start the national campaign here Monday afternoon in the women's long jump alongside Salanawon and Espinas in the boys and girls 800m runs.

Though the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese are expected to lord it over, head coach Joseph Sy said the five Filipinos can pull off a surprise since they are presently the best in the country.

The legendary Elma Muros-Posadas is also making her debut here as coach right on the same track where she gave the country its bronze medal four years ago in the 13th Asian Games.

"I have high hopes that these kids will be the next Elma and Lydia (De Vega) for the Philippines," said Go. "Win or lose, their performance here will prove whether they have what it takes to win medals for the country."

Sibog, who hails from Marbel, South Cotabato, first caught the public's attention when she placed a strong third in this year's national open, behind national team mainstays Lerma Bulauitan and Marestella Torres.

But the 5-foot-6 Sibog is facing a very tough competition here, considering that she's taking on taller athletes from China to Kazakhstan.

Of the five bets here, Muros said she is counting on her protegé, the 18-year-old Forbes, who dazzled everybody by winning the gold in the national open and her rare ability to take off with either her left or right foot.

Fish sanctuaries

COMMENTARY

Vic Vic Villavicencio

FISH sanctuaries, Vic Milan tells us after finishing his island-hopping odyssey, are what may yet save our heavily battered marine environment.

The bright spots in his 3,317-kilometer, 82 adventure were the fish sanctuaries that he and his team visited. Easily topping his list is what started as a shellfish sanctuary in Oroquieta Misamis Occ. Starting with only 5 hectares, this sanctuary has been expanded to 20 hectares, marked not just with buoys but with bamboo poles, with a walkway to the mainland for easy access... and fully funded by the local government.

Not that everything went as a walk in the park. There were the usual resistance and objections from fishermen who felt this was a curtailment of their freedom to harvest marine products in their traditional fishing grounds. It took a lot of political will on the part of the Bandala couple, LGU heads, to start the project. They lost votes in the elections because of this. But the fisherfolk now realize that sanctuaries are, after all, a good thing. Their fish catch outside the sanctuary has improved, and they look forward to still improved harvests in the coming years.

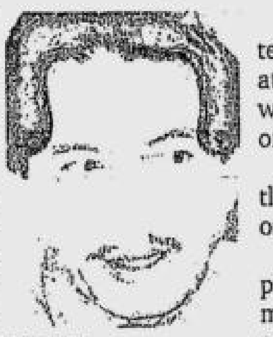
Allowed to swim and snorkel in the protected waters, as an exception to the rules and for research and educational considerations, Vic Milan was impressed by the abundance of marine life: mullets, groupers, mangrove and other snappers, shellfish, sea urchins, young barracuda, sea grass.

Another successful sanctuary is the one on Gilutongan Island off Cordova on Mactan Island in Cebu. The sanctuary is attracting scuba divers from the resorts nearby. As many as a dozen or more dive boats daily have earned the sanctuary over one million pesos in user fees from January to August. And more expected as European tourists arrive on the days toward December.

We agree with Milan's observation that it takes local government leaders with conservation and environment protection sense, and political will, to make successful fish sanctuaries.

A chain successful, passionately protected and managed sanctuaries, all over our islands may yet turn things around for our fishery resources.

RP absorbs twin setbacks as GM Villamayor falters



TORRE

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippines lost to the United States, 2.5-1.5, in the second round of the 35th Olympiad, falling to a share of 29th places two points behind the leaders Cuba, India and Bulgaria.

GM Eugene Torre drew with Gregory Kaidanov, GM Joey Antonio halved the point with Boris Gulko and IM Mark Paragua did the same against Alexander Ivanov. But GM Bong Villamayor lost by time forfeit to Joel Benjamin in a double rook and pawn endgame that he believed he cold draw.

"We were unlucky, but some Asian nations are below us," said Philippine men's team captain Samuel Estimo. He was referring to China, which could only draw against Spain, 2-2.

Antonio, playing black in a Nimzo-Indian, agreed to draw his position in 31 moves since he had little time left to push his attack against Gulko. The draw was due to repititions of same position three times.

Paragua showed his mettle after he found the savings counter-attack against Ivanov to earn a well-deserved draw in 35 moves of a Closed Sicilian.

The Philippine men's team battles England in the third round set on Monday.

The women's team were outplayed by Armenia, with grandmaster candidate Arianne Caoili scoring the lone point guard against Armenia's top player, woman grandmaster Lilit Mkrichian.

International woman master Beverly Mendoza mixed up the order of exchanging pieces which would have given her a good endgame against Goar Higitian. Mendoza wound up losing the battle in a Ruy Lopez opening.

WNM Sheerie Joy Lomibao was simply outplayed by Lilit Galojan. The Philippine team is now tied for 15th to 38th places with 3.5 points. The women's squad will face Iceland in the third round.

RP Ironman tilt at Matabungkay

WISHING to be among the first official Philippine Ironmen, 18 Filipinos have confirmed their participation in the event set on Nov. 30 in Matabungkay Beach in Batangas.

Chief organizer Raul Cuevas said the participants will go the whole route—3.8-kg open water swim, 180-k bike, and a 42-k marathon for a total of around 226 kilometers.

Leading the filed is Frank Lacson, a folk hero among triathletes who will attempt his first full Ironman. Another former champion is Nonoy Jopson who was the Asian junior champion several years ago who holds the national mark in the Olympic distance triathlon.

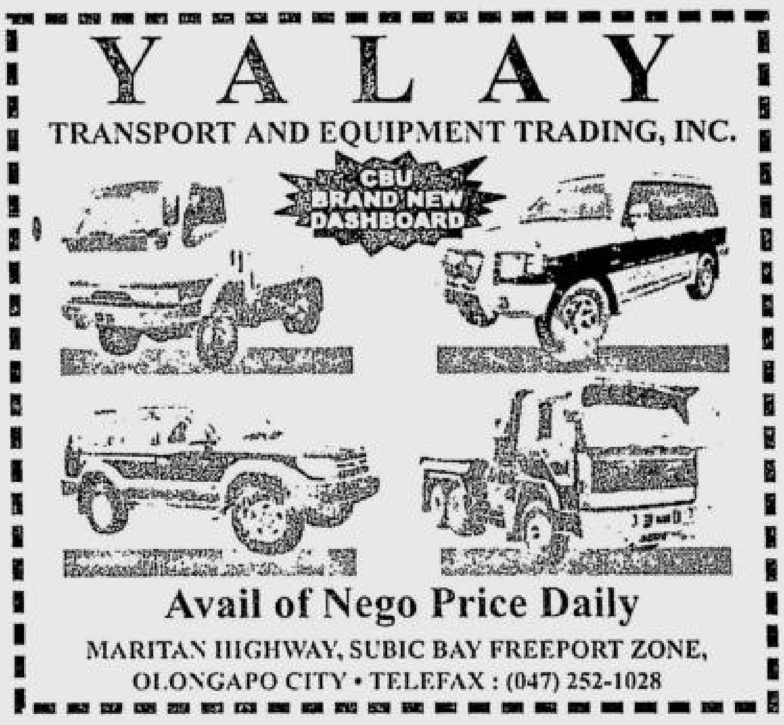
Laguna native Abet Alon-Alon has also confirmed his participation even he is already in semi-retirement. Alon-Alon is now a member of the coaching staff of the Traithlon Association of the Philippines, the sport's ruling body.

Foreign expatriates seeing action are David Charlton, owner of David's Salon, one of the event's sponsors, ADB executive Rune Stroem, doing his first try at the distance, Martin Langevoord amd Mikko Lintu.

Half-Ironman veteran and Alaska PBA team owner Fred Uytengsu, Larry Ocampo, Ernie Lopez, Ian Gonzaga, Maiqui Dayrit, Ron Caringal, Rene Danggoy, Rudy Dizon and Ron Badelles will also compete.

Corporate sponsors who have already lent their support aside from David's Salon are Coral Beach Club, Matabungkay beach Resort, Gatorade, Northwest Airlines, ARENA, New Balance, High 5 Energy Bar and Timex, the official timer.

Inquiries can be made at tel nos. 896-45-44 and 0918-0246299.



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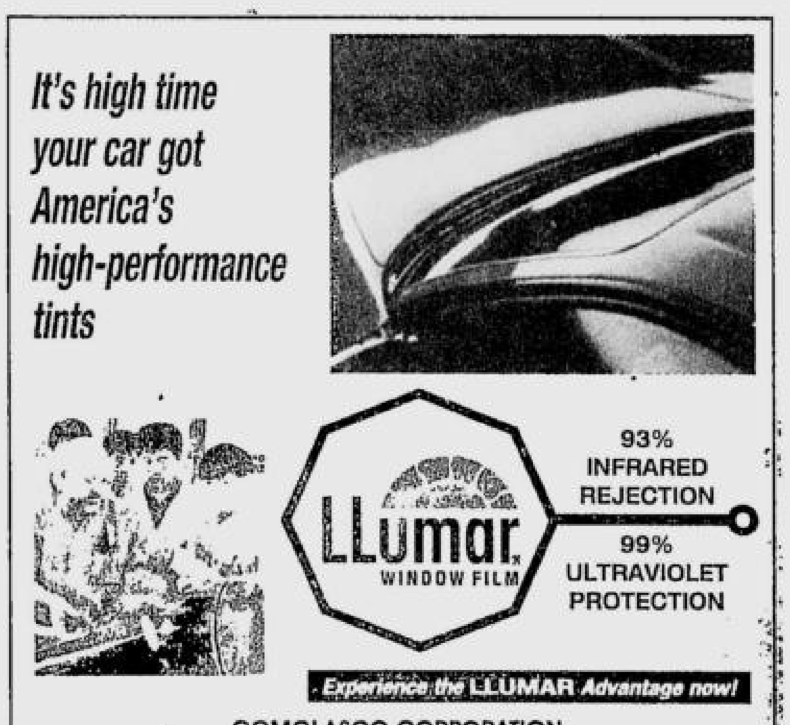

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Cockers rejoice over lifting of ban on game fowls

SABUNGEROS and cock fight aficionados, rejoice.

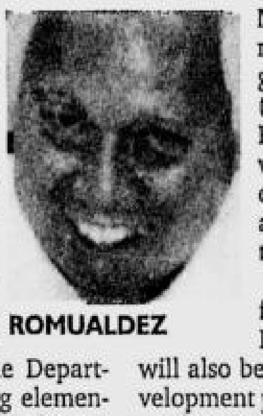
The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has lifted the quantitative restrictions it used to impose on imported game fowls for breeding and international derby, a move seen to further develop the multi-million peso cock breeding and cockfighting industry.

The act is contained in DA Administrative Order No. 23 signed by Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor on Sept. 30, which took effect Oct. 15, 2002. It supercedes AO 133 implemented 12 years ago which limited any local game fowl breeder to bring into the country only a maximum of four fighting cocks and eight hens in a year.

Under the new order, any commercial gamefowl breeder raising for the last six months some 50 breeder hens and 10 breeder roosters in a farm at least 1,000 square meter wide can import an unlimited quantity of fighting cocks provided he is willing to pay certain fees, has the quarantine facilities and the farm to breed the animals.

For non-commercial breeders and *balikbayans* who desire to bring in fighting cocks as *pasalubong* or for hobby, the BAI can, after application, issue them a veterinary quarantine clearance (VQC) allowing them to import a maximum of one trio (2 hens and 1 cock) of gamefowls and 30 pieces of gamefowl hatching eggs per year.

PFF, Unicef boost kids rights through football



ROMUALDEZ

THE UNITED Nations Children's Emergency Fund–Manila and the Philippine Football Federation recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to jointly promote the Convention of Children's Rights through the game of football.

The agreement is in line with both Unicef and PFF's complementary mandates: PFF in working to develop the game of football in the Philippines while promoting the benefits of recreation for the healthy bodies and minds of all children; and Unicef in fulfilling its General Assembly mandate to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to participate and develop fully.

Representing Unicef in the signing is country representative Dr. Terrel Hill who believes that among other PFF activities, the Kasibulan 6-12, with its Teach the Teachers seminars and Kasibulan competitions nationwide, is an ideal program wherein UNICEF's "Say Yes For Children" advocacy program can be integrated.

"Say Yes For Children" is a global movement for children determined to build a better world for children and for all humanity.

Kasibulan 6-12 is the nationwide Grassroots Development Program of the Philippine Football Federation in partnership with the Department of Education, aimed at giving elementary school children (boys and girls) the opportunity to know and play the game of football.

Youth Development Committee Chair Johnny Romualdez, representing PFF in the MOA signing, said that the agreement, which is an offshoot of the global agreement between Fifa (Federacion Internationale de Football Association) and Unicef, would promote the right of the child to play and to healthy recreation in the Philippines through the game of football.

Romualdez added that aside from Kasibulan 6-12, the "Say Yes For Children" advocacy program will also be promoted in the other youth development programs of the PFF.

The signing, which was held on Oct. 14, 2002 at the Unicef office at the Neda building in Makati City, was timely as October is the foundation of the United Nations and the children's month.

BATA wins.
See A20

Uratex Caddies golfest resumes Dec. 15

THE URATEX National Caddies Championship, the country's most unique event since it's solely for Filipino bagtoters, will resume on Dec. 15.

This was bared yesterday by Robert Cheng after meeting with the organizing committee.

S.P. Malbarosa was also present as the representative of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"I'm happy to announce that we are staging the 14th edition of the tournament," said Cheng, president of the RGC Group of Companies, including Polyfoam-RGC International Corp., Uratex Philippines.

"And I'm also happy to announce the wish of the First Gentleman to be involved in our tournament. His support will go a long way for the welfare of our caddies."

Cheng started the event in 1988 to provide Filipino caddies their own national event, help them financially with hefty prizes in gift certificates and in kind and discover talent.

He shelved the tournament last year with the promise that he would resume it this year. Cheng is chair of the executive committee while Sen. Tito Sotto is honorary chairman.

Others who attended the meeting were organizing committee co-chairmen Col. Abe Villanueva and Manding Santos and members Taby Tabaniag and Roger B. Flores. Jake Ayson was out of town.

"We are finalizing arrangements where we will stage it this year because the tournament's home, the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club, is under reconstruction," Villanueva said.

"We would like to call on all the golf clubs to send their teams to this very laudable tournament," Santos said.

Davao City's Jay Bayron eagled the final hole to shoot a 72 year on his way to a dramatic four-stroke victory over Wack Wack's Ruben de la Rosa in 2000.

Manila Southwoods' Nerisa Ogares won the women's division crown. The men's class is for 72 holes while the women's event is for 54.

Previous men's winners were Al Cruz Jr., Rodolfo Cuello, Winifredo Superal, Danny Fortusa, Vic Santia, Jr., Elmer Salvador, Florencio Tiamzon, Primo Sinfuego, Neil Catalan, Richard Abaring, Jesse Baddion and Doming Bacala.

Romero Super Bike champion

ROSARIO, Batangas–When Nikki Romero of Club 200 Racing-Team R-II Builders joined the 2002 Shell Advance Super Bike Championships early this year, he was just one of the many riders hoping to become one of the stars in the local circuit.

Last Sunday, Romero became the brightest star of them all.

Romero capped a memorable rookie season, posting back-to-back victories in the 11th and 12th rounds to emerge as the overall winner in the novice category at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

He was also adjudged as "Rookie of the Year".

"I'm very happy. I really never imagined I'd win the championship at this early stage of my career," said Romero, who is also being supported by Azzuro Bistro and Wine Bar and A-toy Body Kits and Custom Paints.

Romero submitted a time of 21:12.758 in the 11th round held in the morning, more than 45 seconds faster than his closest pursuer, Jaime Barcial.

He also clocked 20:08.304 in the 12th and final round, which was 46.875 seconds quicker than eventual second placer Julian Goitia.

Verde water polo champ

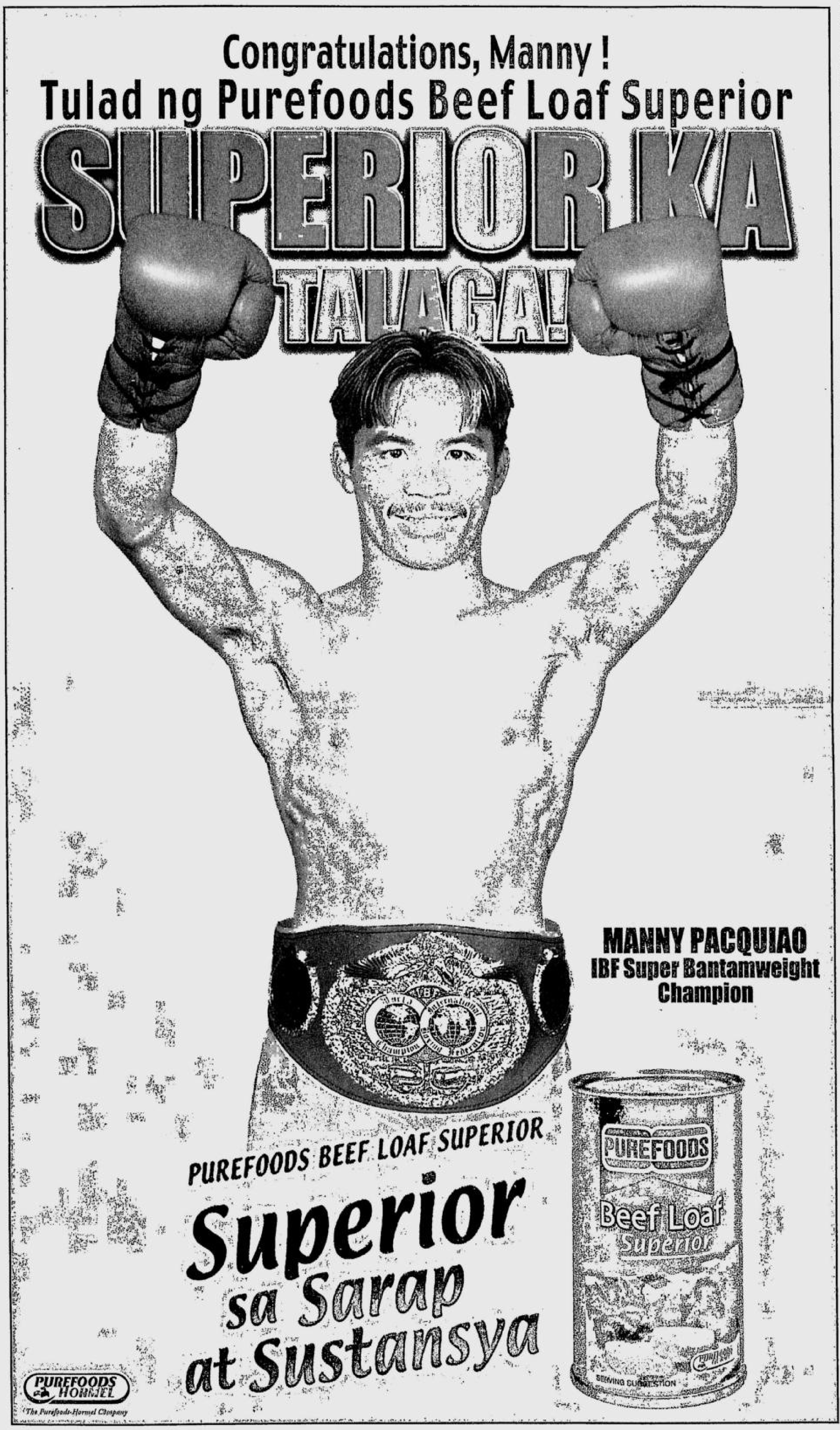
THE VALLE Verde Country Club Aqualasers nipped Air Force, 12-11, last Sunday to capture the PASA Water Polo Committee-PSC 3-on-3 crown at the Rizal Memorial pool.

National player Michael Jorolan scored three goals in the last two minutes to lift the Aqualasers to victory.

Roy Canete starred for the Airmen, scoring almost half of his team's markers.

The Celebrity Sports Club Anacondas beat College of St. Benilde, 12-7, to finish third.

The event organized by the PASA Water Polo Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission served as the final test for national team and training pool members aspiring to participate in the 5th Philippine international water polo friendly matches set Nov. 11-13 at the Abellana pool in Cebu City.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■ 'Illegal' dumpsite in Fernando city /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Drivers strike today

By Agnes E. Donato, Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos

JEEPNEY drivers belonging to the Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston) will suspend their trips in key cities and provinces today to protest the latest oil price increases.

Organizers said the protest, called "Tigil-Pasada," will last only from 5 a.m. until 9 a.m. In Metro Manila, it is expected to include jeepneys plying the Cubao, Alabang and Monumento areas.

As a countermeasure, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board said it would field 20 buses in Metro Manila.

Drivers from Sta. Maria, Meycauayan, Malolos, Baliwag in Bulacan; Angeles and San Fernando cities in Pampanga; and Tarlac City will also join the protest, according to organizers.

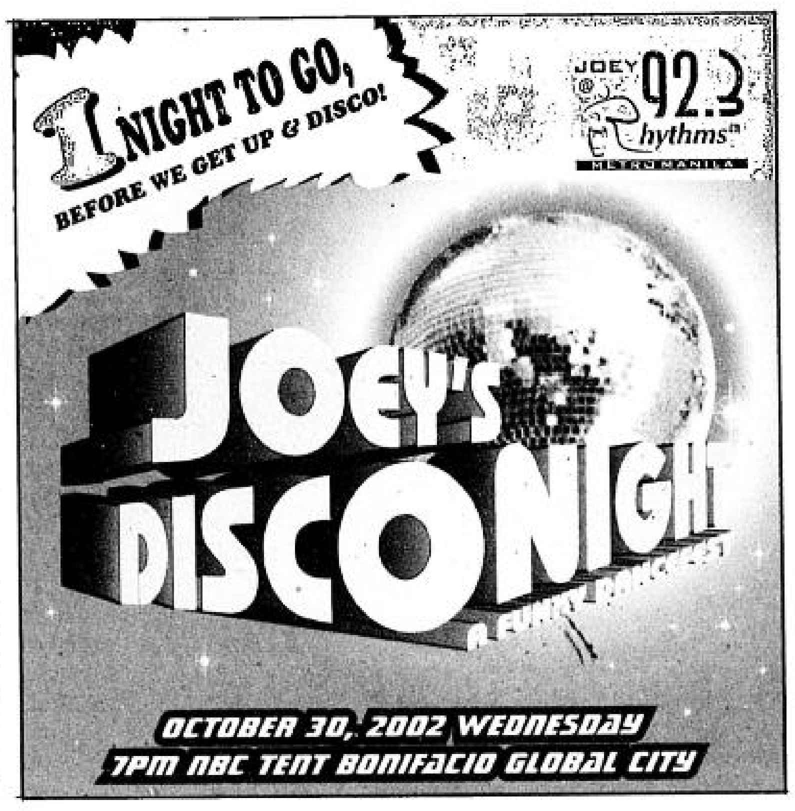
Provincial trips to Naga, Albay and Sorsogon will be postponed while drivers in Iloilo and General Santos cities will hold rallies and block oil depots in their areas.

"The growing unrest of the transport sector should serve as a strong warning to greedy oil companies," said Piston national chairman Medardo Roda.

"We are more than willing and ready to launch protests to force Shell, Caltex, Petron and new oil players to immediately roll back their prices," he said.

He pointed out that a driver's earnings

DRIVERS/ A26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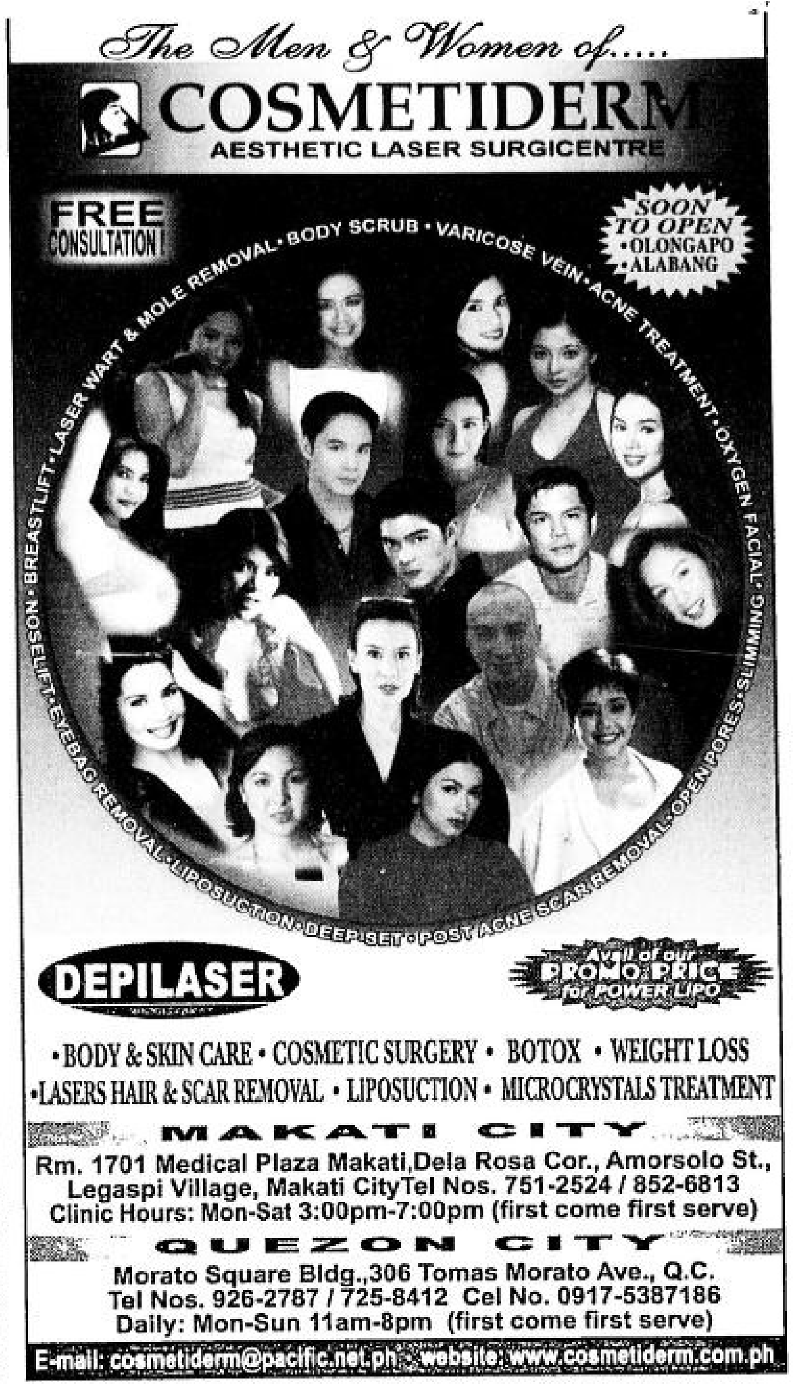
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8. Upon successful account opening of a Maxi-One and/or Platinum account, branch will give client a serialized Globe voucher. Attached to the voucher will be the application details.
9. Client has the option to either:
   - Go to the nearest Globe Business Center, present the Globe voucher with valid ID with picture, proof of income (e.g. ITR, pay slip or latest credit card statement with a min. credit limit of ₱10,000) and proof of billing address (e.g. utility bills or credit card statement for the last 2 months under client's name).
   - Call Globe Direct number (751-8888) and talk to a Customer Service Representative for delivery requirements. No cash payment shall be accepted. For G Text or G Mix, payments on handset can be done via credit card only.
10. Globe gift voucher should be under the name of the BPI accountholder, is non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
11. Availment of a Globe subscription shall be subject to Globe's credit conditions. Regular terms and conditions will apply. Minimum term of a Globe subscription is 24 months. Regular pre-termination charges will apply.
12. Availment of the FREE Nokia 3315 or discount on the handset will be up to January 29, 2003 only.
13. This promo is not valid in conjunction with other existing Globe promos.
14. All employees of BPI (including its subsidiaries) and Globe, BPI's and Globe's advertising agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
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‘Illegal’ dumpsite in Fernando city

By Nelson F. Flores

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who's on top of garbage collection in the metropolis, has a stash of trash in his own backyard.

The former mayor of Marikina has apparently failed to clean his own city, which has an illegal dumpsite that has been operating for several years now, according to Albert Magalang, National Solid Waste Commission executive director.

Magalang said the commission in 1995 had issued a closure order against the dumpsite but this has not been enforced.

Fernando's wife, Marides Fernando, is now mayor of Marikina. Magalang said that if she continues to refuse to enforce the closure order, the commission would be forced to file administrative, criminal and graft charges against her.

He said that the recent NSWC inspection of the area had shown that the dump, located in a former swampland in Doña Petra Subdivision, Barangay Concepcion Uno, has been operating on and off since 2000, when the San Mateo sanitary landfill was closed.

Magalang said the city government would temporarily stop the operation of the dumpsite whenever local residents would file a complaint with the Laguna Lake Development Authority of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But after a few months, the dumpsite would resume operation, he added.

"That is why we welcome the participation of local residents in monitoring the condition of the dumpsite," Magalang said.

Records showed that Bayani Fernando opened the dumpsite in 1994. The following year, the DENR and the LLDA issued a cease and desist order against the dumpsite, describing it as a direct menace to public health and safety, the records showed.

The DENR, LLDA and the NSWC had received reports that after the dumpsite was opened, there was an increase in respiratory-tract-related illness among residents of Doña Petra Subdivision and adjoining areas.

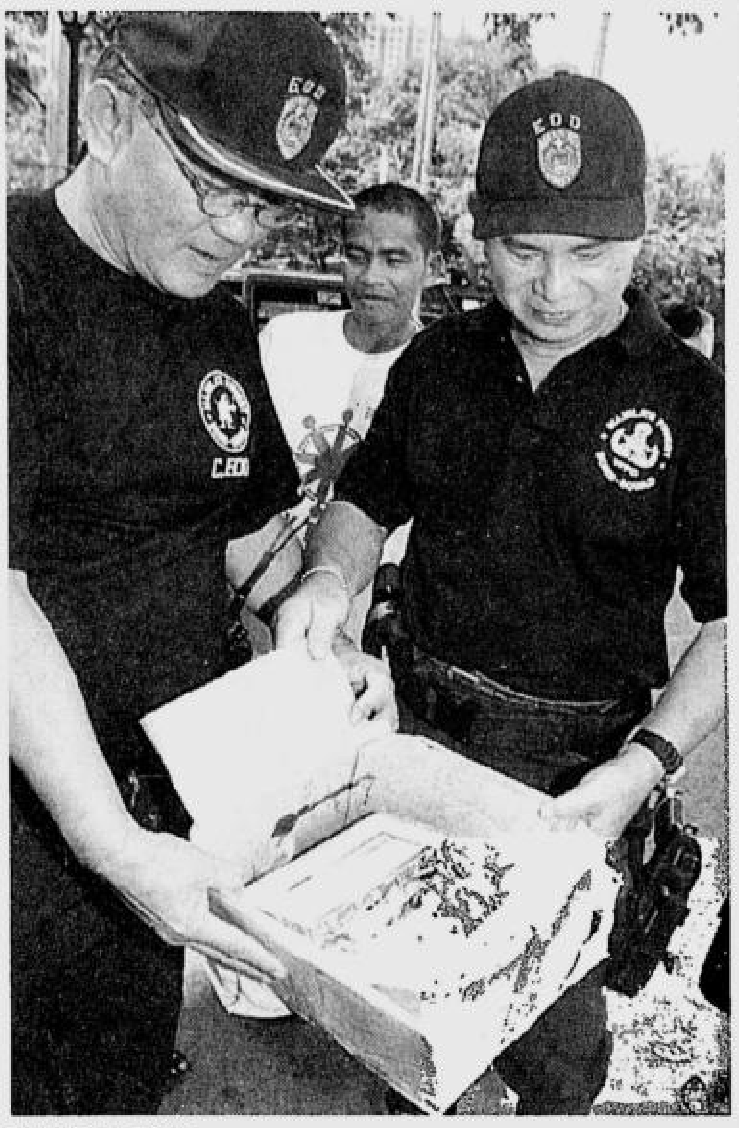
The dumpsite is said to emit noxious fumes and odors, which become almost unbearable at noon.

The stench and the rash of illness prompted local residents to file complaints with the city government, but then Mayor Bayani Fernando allegedly ignored the complaints, Magalang said.

"There is a scarcity of Fernando admirers in our community," said engineer Ed Parra, former president of the Twinville Homeowners Association. Twinville is near the dumpsite.

Anita Paway, Samahang Kapatiran ng Doña Petra president, said the Fernandos labeled their complaint as politically motivated.

As of last week, the pile of waste in the dumpsite was already about 10 meters high, said Magalang.



STINK BOMB
Members of the Western Police District beam with relief as they discover that a box, found at the foot of Jones Bridge in Manila and suspected to contain explosives, turns out to be full of plain garbage.
ERIK ARAZAS

Man takes 4 relatives hostage

By Jerome Aning

USING a toy grenade, a 32-year-old electrician whose house was about to be demolished held hostage his three nieces and a nephew for three hours in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday morning.

But Rico Laron, of Felix Huertas Street, Sta. Cruz, peacefully yielded to a police negotiator an hour after he first threatened to kill the hostages.

Police said Laron lost his temper when he learned that Ferdinand Mercado, sheriff of the Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 11, was out to serve him an order evicting the suspect and his family from their house.

Police said the lot is owned by Victor and Blesilda Buencamino. But according to Laron's wife Zenaida, the owners of the property turned over the lot 50 years ago to their driver and Laron's grandfather Isidro, who became the caretaker.

Police said Blesilda, however, now wants to recover the property.

At first, the suspect wanted to talk the matter over when Mercado went to Laron's house at about 9 a.m. to serve the eviction order.

But Mercado insisted that the order of MTC Judge Casiano P. Anunciacion Jr. must be implemented.

Angered, Laron reportedly produced what appeared to be a fragmentation grenade and used it to threaten the sheriff and his companions.

When the policemen arrived, Laron ran back to the house and proceeded to the room where his siblings' children—aged 12, 6 and 3 years old and a 2-month-old—were asleep.

The suspect then threatened to kill himself and the children if the policemen were to approach.

Barangay 311 official Mario Carmona began to negotiate with Laron and persuaded him to release the children to Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong at about 11:45 a.m.

Members of the WPD explosives and ordinance division recovered the grenade and found out it was only a plastic toy.

Laron was taken to the WPD Station 3 and charged with grave scandal and serious illegal detention.

Government helpless vs terrorists at this time

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

IS THE government capable of protecting the citizenry from terrorists?

This was the gist of the debate at the popular TV program "Debate" Thursday night on GMA 7.

I was on the side that said the government, at this time, did not have the capability to handle the terrorism problem. Taking the same stand were Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, former Armed Forces chief of staff, and Teddy Casino, spokesman of Bayan, a militant group.

On the other side, which argued that the government could protect the citizenry from terrorists, were Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, representing the Philippine National Police (PNP); Malabon Rep. Ricky Sandoval, member of the House committee on appropriations; and Interior Undersecretary Wenceslao Andanar.

* * *

The TV debate was spirited, with both panels ably defending their respective stand.

Both arrived at the conclusion that the citizenry's participation was needed for the government to lick the problem of terrorism.

Without the citizenry's help, the government cannot solve the problem alone.

* * *

I'd like to repeat here my argument in "Debate": The situation will get worse before it gets better. And there's nothing that the government can do at the moment except to roll with the punches.

Terrorism is a worldwide phenomenon. Israel and the United States, with all their sophisticated intelligence networks, are reeling from the terrorist attacks.

Terrorists have the upper hand. They have the luxury of time and place to strike. They can strike at any place and any time they please. Their area of operation is so vast the government doesn't have enough manpower to cover it.

Eventually, though, the citizenry, from whose ranks will come the innocent casualties, will take matter into its hands and help the government in ferreting out the terrorists in its midst. Then and only then will the problem of terrorism be licked.

* * *

Remember the rampant killings of policemen, soldiers and innocent civilians by the death squads of the New People's Army in Davao City in the 1980s?

Davao City residents rose in revolt against the abuses of the communist urban guerrillas. They formed the Alsa Masa, a vigilante group that went after the death squads.

The NPA death squads were driven out of the city. The NPA learned a big lesson from that experience: Never antagonize the citizenry.

* * *

Senators blame the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) for the spate of bombings by terrorists in various parts of the country.

They summoned Col. Victor Corpus, ISAFP chief, recently to explain to the Senate committee on finance how his unit was spending its budget.

But when Corpus went down to details on how ISAFP was spending its budget, most of them were no longer interested. Some of the senators who were responsible for having Corpus face the powerful committee—Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Gregorio Honasan—left the room while Corpus was explaining. Both Biazon and Honasan are former military officers.

* * *

Perhaps the senators were embarrassed because they found out that the ISAFP was not getting enough funds for the Herculean job of spying on the enemies of the state.

Of the P1.225-billion annual intelligence budget distributed among the different agencies of the executive branch of government, ISAFP gets only a measly P33.6 million.

The amount is only 2.69 percent—repeat, 2.69 percent—of the P1.225 billion allocated for intelligence.

* * *

How the hell can ISAFP, supposedly the local counterpart of the Israeli Mossad (don't laugh), live on a measly budget?

Of the P33.6 million allocated for it, ISAFP spends P16.17 million, or one-half of its budget, on foreign intelligence. The money goes to the funding of the offices of military attaches in Philippine embassies abroad.

The other half is distributed among the various intelligence tasks of ISAFP, namely domestic intelligence, counter-intelligence, etc. Counter-intelligence, one of ISAFP's primary functions, gets P1.814 million.

I repeat, how the hell can the senators expect ISAFP to work as efficiently as the Mossad, Israel's super-intelligence arm, if it has the budget of a beggar in Quiapo?

* * *

ISAFP is not the only intelligence unit of the Armed Forces. There is G-2, the intelligence unit of the Army. There is A-2, the Air Force intelligence; another is N-2, the naval intelligence arm.

So, ISAFP is not the whole military community. It is just a small part of the big intelligence community.

If there's anybody to blame for the intelligence fiasco in dealing with the spate of bombings, it should not only be ISAFP but the whole intelligence arm of the military.

* * *

Corpus said that despite its limited budget, ISAFP officers and men are at par in efficiency with the other military intelligence units.

He said the entire military intelligence community warned the operating units of a plan by terrorists to bomb crowded places in Zamboanga City.

The warning was apparently not heeded by the operating units because precautions were not taken to prevent the bombings.

* * *

Corpus, a man of few words, promises that if ISAFP has enough budget, it can work much better than now.

Why? Because it can spend more to pay civilian assets or spies.

"We don't have enough money to buy information and pay people who will spy for the government," says Corpus.

Cemetery visitors will be frisked, warns Fernando

By Leila B. Salaverria

EVERYONE will be frisked and all bags and packages will be inspected.

These are just two of the security measures that Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday imposed to protect people panicked by the recent bomb scares, who would be visiting cemeteries in the metropolis on All Saints Day.

There are 62 cemeteries and memorial parks in Metro Manila, and thousands of people are expected to troop to them during the four-day holiday beginning Oct. 31.

"Number one rule: Nobody should leave anything behind," Fernando stressed.

The MMDA chair yesterday told reporters that visitors to the cemeteries would be frisked and their packages inspected to ensure that no explosives are brought in the cemeteries.

"I appeal to the families to bring all your things with you when you leave the cemetery," he said.

Leaving things unattended in cemeteries would also be prohibited because unattended bags and packages could be mistaken to contain bombs and cause panic, Fernando said.

But if a suspicious package is found, it should be reported to the authorities at once, he said.

He also urged people not to panic when a suspicious package is found to prevent a stampede.

Cemetery entrances and exits should be free from obstructions to facilitate the free flow of pedestrians, Fernando said. He urged vendors to stay away from streets and sidewalks and instead peddle their goods at designated places.

Police would also be checking vehicles for car bombs, one of the most lethal weapons in a crowded place, Fernando said.

NCRPO Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said K-9 dogs would be deployed in and around the cemeteries.

Speaking to reporters at the MMDA office yesterday, Velasco said police would be extra vigilant at bus stations especially during the mad rush to the provinces.

Stabbed dead by best friend

SOME friendships don't last.

In the case of Jose Asipe and Joel Tolentino, their friendship ended abruptly when Asipe stabbed his best friend in Quezon City Sunday night.

Tolentino, 27, of Calumpit, Bulacan was declared dead on arrival at the Novaliches General Hospital, investigators said.

Police are now looking for Asipe, 29, of Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City, who escaped right after the stabbing.

Members of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit said Asipe and Tolentino were having a drink near Asipe's house when they started joking around at about 7:15 p.m.

Asipe reportedly began to resent Tolentino's jokes, which led to a heated exchange. Police said Asipe lost his temper, pulled out a knife and stabbed Tolentino many times. *Alcuin Papa*

Drivers strike today

From page A25

could barely cover his "boundary," much less his family's basic needs.

"Even if we work for 24 hours, we still end up taking home a measly amount because of the exorbitant crude prices," Roda said.

The transport group said it decided to proceed with the protest actions despite the All Saints Day rush to show that the transport sector is united in resisting the oil price increases.

"We are left with no other option but to step up transport protests," he said.

"Roda's mind is made up, although the strike would only be conducted for half the day," Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Dante Lantin told reporters at the Metro Manila Development Authority Office.

Lantin said the MMDA and the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) would ensure that no untoward incident would break out during the strike.

He said the Metro Manila areas expected to be most affected by the strike are Sta. Mesa, Manila; Sucat, Parañaque; and the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area.

But Lantin said that despite Piston's protest, the LTFRB would defer deciding on the transport group's petition for a P1 fare increase.

"Piston's petition may be considered a class suit," he said. "The LTFRB's decision on the case will apply to everybody. So we decided not to decide on the petition until there is a consensus (among the various transport groups)."

Other transport groups have said they would not ask for a fare increase until the price of diesel and gasoline goes up to P15.50 per liter.

The labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno said it was throwing its full support behind the jeepney drivers' protest actions.

KMU vice president Emilia Dapulang said it is now up to the public to do something to stop the oil price increases.

"We cannot expect the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration to willingly uphold our interests and decisively stop the oppressive oil price increases," Dapulang said. "The government undoubtedly lacks the political will to rein in the greediness of these oil companies for more profits."

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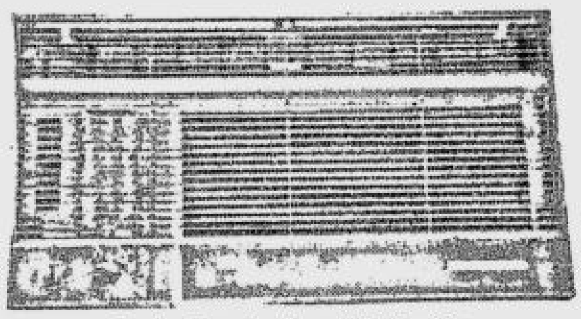

• Carrier Scepter. Bought in the 60s.

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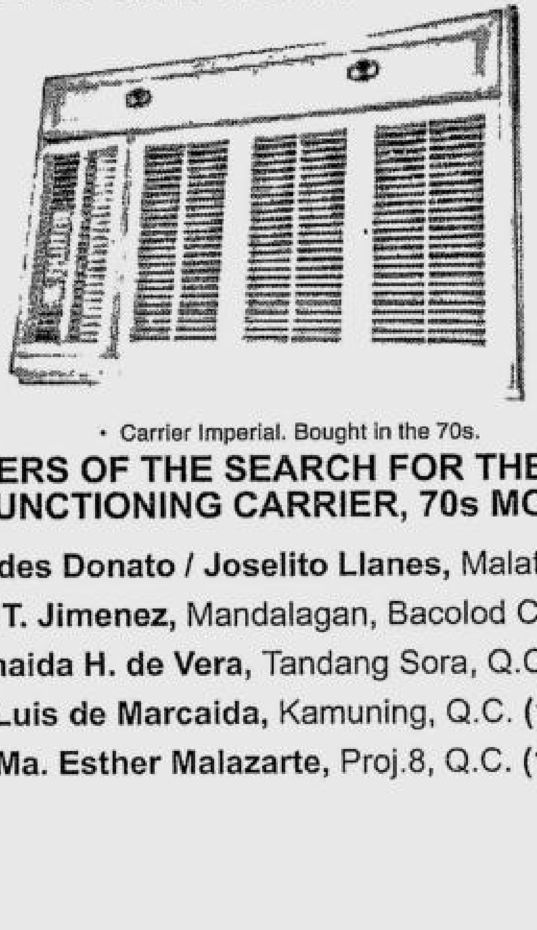
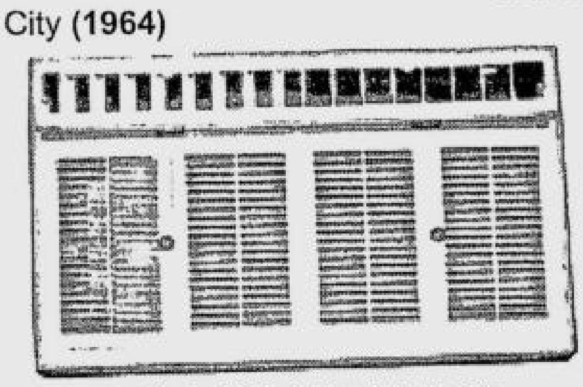
Josephine Velasco, Loyola Hts., Q.C. **(1963)**
Ramon Miciano, Bantayan, Dumaguete City **(1964)**
Eduardo L. Locsin, Capitolville Subd., Bacolod City **(1964)**
Virginia Sy, Makati City **(1964)**



• Carrier Imperial. Bought in the 70s.

WINNERS OF THE SEARCH FOR THE OLDEST FUNCTIONING CARRIER, 70s MODEL:

Maria Lourdes Donato / Joselito Llanes, Malate, Manila **(1970)**
Nilo T. Jimenez, Mandalagan, Bacolod City **(1970)**
Zenaida H. de Vera, Tandang Sora, Q.C. **(1970)**
Luis de Marcaida, Kamuning, Q.C. **(1970)**
Ma. Esther Malazarte, Proj.8, Q.C. **(1970)**



• Carrier Hi-Tech. Bought in the 80s.

WINNERS OF THE SEARCH FOR THE OLDEST FUNCTIONING CARRIER, 80s MODEL:

Rev. Nilo S. Peig, Bangued, Abra **(1980)**
Malou Apolinario, Bel Air IV, Makati City **(1980)**
Henry Jao, Intramuros, Manila **(1980)**
Remigia Guerra, Quezon City **(1980)**
Teodoro V. Dilanco, Libmanan, Camarines Sur **(1980)**

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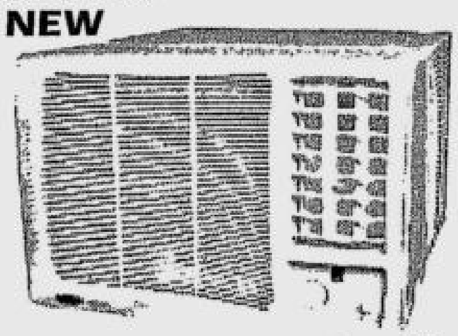

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outstanding dealers led by Dealer of The Year awardee Ab
Light Commercial Achievement Awards, Best Business Pl
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Business Session. CCAC gave its top dealers a glimpse of b
launched the Toshiba line of air conditio

Gala Dinner. Afros, polyester and bell-bottom suits galo
themed fashion. Seasoned performer Marissa Sanchez and t
most timel

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during their memorable stay upon knowing that we have k
like them, we are assured that Carrier s leadership in the

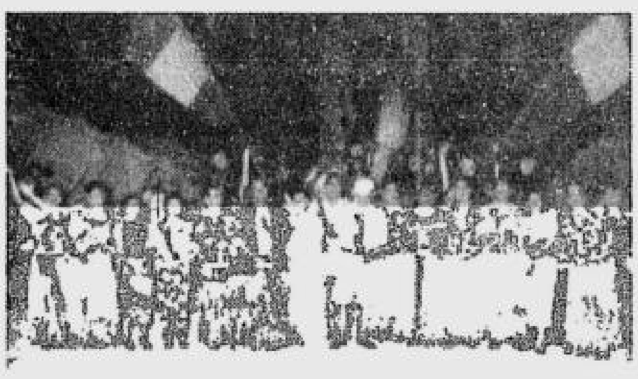
CONCEPCIO
AIR COND

Livin' It Up! - Jie Woon Kahng (extreme left), Raffy Hechanova and Jojo Concepcion (extreme right) with the Western Marketing Group (from L to R) – Eva Chan, Dianne Pauline Ngo, Chan Yec An and Chan Siac Uan Bun.

Heating the Beach Party Further - Host Joyce Jimenez.

The Regional Awardees - (fr. L to R) – Allan Uy of Angeles Savers Mart, Lito Gillamac of Gillamac's Marketing, Alfonso Yu of First Asian Appliances (GMA) and Jenny Ang of Golden Bell (Mindanao) with Jojo Concepcion, Jie Woon Kahng and Raffy Hechanova of CCAC.

" Look at meeh wiggle my sexy bodeeh..." - (fr. L to R) - Wilson Lim of Abenson, Inc., Lito Gillamac of Gillamac's Marketing, Jun Sumulong of AIRPAC and Jimmy Lim of ESLA.

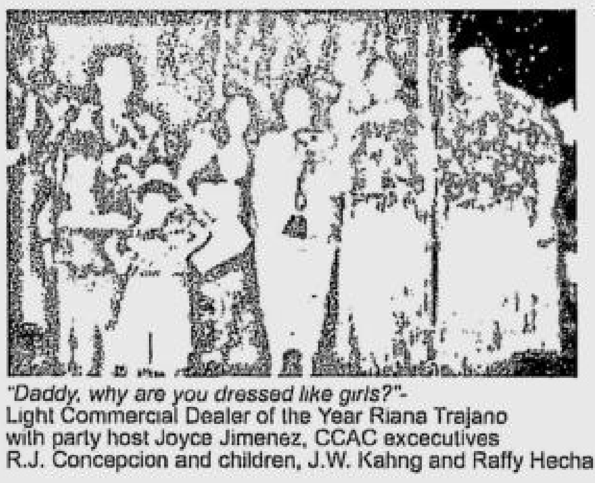


Top Ten Light Commercial Dealers - (fr. L to R) – Jie Woon Kahng of CCAC with awardees Winston Lim of Abenson, Inc., Windy Santos of Romsan, Tessie Uy of TCU, Rene Salubayba of Seasonaire, Mel de Jesus of Coldpoint, Winston Chan & Timmy Sy of Conceptrade, Manny Tan of Coolair, Raffy Hechanova of CCAC, Edgar Cavite of Polarwind, Mario Tan of Poweraire, Jun & Elsa Sumulong of Airpac and Jojo Concepcion of CCAC.

Revved up for the Hula Dancing Contest - (fr. L to R) - Eusebio Lim of Western Marketing, Dr. Zoilo Pangilinan of Ocampo's House, Johnny Gochangco of Appliance Centrum, Wilson Lim of Abenson, Inc., Rudy Tiu of Imperial Appliance, Lito Gillamac of Gillamac's Marketing, Simeon Bonacua of Multibrand and Nick Plata of ANP Marketing.

"No, They Aren't The Hula Contest Winners." - The Top Ten WRAC Dealers – (fr. L to R, front) - Jojo Concepcion of CCAC, Geoffrey Chua of Automatic Center, Renato Co of Fair & Square Emporium, Rudy Tiu of Imperial Appliances, Sonny Go of Super Appliances, Stephen Yap of Quality Appliances, Jimmy Lim of ESLA, Eusebio Lim of Western Marketing, and Mario Tan of Worldwide Audio-Video. (Back) Jie Woon Kahng and Raffy Hechanova. (Not represented in picture) Star Appliances and Anson's Emporium.

"You sure you guys weren't around when I was Martin's age?" - Timeless Balladeer Bert Nievera & lovely wife Carolina Nievera (extreme right) with (fr. L) Lynne Navarro & Gina Hechanova.



"Daddy, why are you dressed like girls?"- Light Commercial Dealer of the Year Riana Trajano with party host Joyce Jimenez, CCAC excecutives R.J. Concepcion and children, J.W. Kahng and Raffy Hechanova.

Dealer of The Year - Jusy Lim (third fr. left) and Wilso
(fifth fr. left) of Abenson, Inc. with (fr. L to R) - Jojo Conce
President and COO, CCAC, Joyce Jimenez, Jie Woo
Kahng, President & CEO, CCAC and Raffy Hechano
Director, Sales & Marketing, CCAC.

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Rafael C. Hechanova, Jr., awards were given to the top achievers led by
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parts availability, and nationwide parts and service centers, among others.

d number one in the air conditioning industry leading all its categories:
igh wall, and applied equipment.

of the air conditioning industry in the Philippines.

rier Kelvinator

nez, it was a night of recognition as CCAC awarded its most
son, Inc. Dealers were awarded in various categories such as
n Achievement Awards (for exceeding their annual business
wide Window Room Air conditioner (WRAC) Awards.

th their present and future as they reviewed the market and
ers, refrigerators and washing machines.

e as CCAC executives and dealers went in their best retro-
meless balladeer Bert Nievera regaled their audience with the
s love songs.

expressing CCAC s gratitude to our dealers for making our
ore fruitful time to celebrate. We feel as happy as they were
pt Carrier s worldwide tradition of being first. With dealers
field will grow bigger and stronger in the years to come.

The Top Honcho -
Jie Woon Kahng, President & CEO, CCAC.

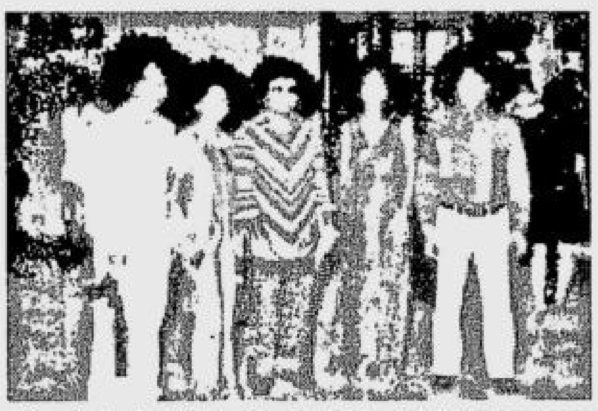
The Queen & Her Court - (fr. L to R) – Drs. Zoilo & Grace Pangilinan,and Grace Ann Pangilinan of Ocampo's House of Appliances, Finina Galang of Ocampo's Angeles, VittGutierrez of Ocampo's Olongapo and Mater Brofar-Prudente of CCAC.

The Sultan & His Magistrates -
(fr. L to R) – David Ang of Golden Bell, Eva Chan of Western Marketing, Marylou Lee of Star Appliance & Jenny Ang of Golden Bell.

Maximus & Cleopatra -
Jimmy & Jinky Lim of Emilio S. Lim Appliances (ESLA).

When Different Eras Collide! - (fr. L to R) - Toti & Maricar Lorenzo of Royal Star Marketing, Jojo Concepcion with kids, Sylvia San Antonio of Solar Sales and Mr. & Mrs. Gus and Pacita Uykim of Gleen Marketing.

Dressed to Kill. –
(fr. L to R) - Nelia Santos, Minda Abelardo, Erly Dungca,Arlene Plata, Jojo Concepcion, Mr. & Mrs. Mel and Gloria de Jesus, Mr. &Mrs. Rene and Bella Salubayba and Mr. & Mrs. Jun and Elsa Sumulong.



Afros Galore! - (fr. L to R) - Mr. & Mrs. Toti & Maricar Lazaro of Royal Star Marketing, Pete Cura of Corplan, Inc., Ailene Chan of Angeles Savers Mart & Edgar Cavite of Polarwind.

"Time Space Warp..." Gala Dinner attendees in their retro outfits strike a pose.

ON-CARRIER
ITIONING

Raffy Hechanova, Director of Sales and Marketing, CCAC.

"We're in the New Millennium now, you know..." Marissa Sanchez serenading Roger Lo of RL Appliances.

Lim
on,

"Is this as good as an endorsement for 2004?" -
Mayor Benjie Lim of Magic Appliance Center with lovely beach party host Joyce Jimenez.

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9 MORNINGS
JEANNIE, BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?

G4 GLORIETTA 4
MR. DEEDS
PLUTO NASH
BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
MUNTING TINIG
TUXEDO
RED DRAGON
HALLOWEEN: RESURRECTION

GB1 GREENBELT 1
THE LEGEND OF BHAGAT SINGH (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV 8-9, 21-22-23, 29,30 / 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
HALLOWEEN: RESURRECTION 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15
RED DRAGON 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
MR. DEEDS 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20

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BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
9 MORNINGS
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5 PLUTO NASH
6 NINE MORNING
7 RED DRAGON
8 BALLISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

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2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BALLISTIC ECKS VS SEVER
5 9 MORNING
6 RED DRAGON
7 BED TIME STORY
8 TUXEDO
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Gotesco Commonwealth
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2 9 MORNING
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3 RED DRAGON

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3 RED DRAGON
4 9 MORNING

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2 RED DRAGON
3 9 MORNING

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3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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2 9 MORNING
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4 TUXEDO

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2 LOLLIPOP
3 9 MORNINGS
4 POSSESSION

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8 BALLISTIC

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5 9 MORNINGS
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7 RED DRAGON
8 THE TUXEDO
9 BEDTIME STORIES
10 MR. DEEDS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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1 POSSESSION
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BESTMAN
4 TUXEDO
5 RED DRAGON
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 BALLISTIC
8 9 MORNINGS
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 MR. DEEDS
11 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
12 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY MANILA
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1 BALLISTIC
2 MR. DEEDS
3 PLUTO NASH
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 FRAILTY
8 THE TOUCH
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 MUNTING TINIG
11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

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1 THE TOUCH
2 THE TUXEDO
3 MR. DEEDS
4 RED DRAGON
5 BALLISTIC
6 PLUTO NASH
7 MUNTING TINIG
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
11 BEDTIME STORIES
12 9 MORNINGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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1 9 MORNINGS
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 BEDTIME STORIES
4 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 THE TUXEDO
6 RED DRAGON
7 PLUTO NASH
8 BALLISTIC

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 PLUTO NASH
2 MR. DEEDS
3 RED DRAGON
4 9 MORNINGS
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 THE TUXEDO
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
9 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
10 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE TUXEDO
2 VOODOO
3 BLOODWORK
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 THE TOUCH
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 RED DRAGON

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 PROSTI
2 CLOSED
3 BLOODWORK
4 9 MORNINGS
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 CLOSED
8 VAN WILDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 RED DRAGON
3 BALLISTIC
4 9 MORNINGS
5 POSSESSION
6 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

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1 BALLISTIC
2 RED DRAGON
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

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1 RED DRAGON
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS

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2976998
1 RED DRAGON
2 VAN WILDER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 THE TOUCH
5 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

SM BICUTAN
1
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4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

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1
2
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4
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THE PODIUM CINEMA
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PLUTO NASH
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:30 END
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LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
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3 MR. DEEDS
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
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6 RED DRAGON
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 9 MORNINGS

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Horror movies...

From page A32

and "A League of Their Own".

Barbara Streisand became a big singing star, after which she conquered Hollywood as actress-singer in "Funny Girl," "Hello, Dolly" and "On a Clear Day, You Can See Forever." Then, in 1983, she topped herself with "Yentl," which she both starred in and directed.

Since then, she's megged "The Prince of Tides" and "The Mirror Has Two Faces." The performer-director is reputed to be a perfectionist who insists on getting her way, hence the uniqueness of her films.

Jodie Foster also became a star first before she directed her first movie, "Little Man Tate," in 1991. She next made "Home for the Holidays" in 1995. Her debut film got a better reception from reviewers, who described it as "a moving, extraordinary empathetic look at a child genius." His mother can't give him the support and stimulation he need, but neither can the director of a school for exceptional children who takes him under her wing. Beautifully realized by Foster in her directing debut, with a bittersweet script by **Scott Frank**.

Thus far, we've been focusing on actresses turned directors. For her past, **Agnieska Holland** studied filmmaking in Poland under **Milos Forman** before directing film features in her home country, France and Germany.

Her first solo directorial feature, "Provincial Actors," won the International Critics Prize at the Cannes filmfest. "A Woman Alone" is the grim tale of an unmarried woman's struggle for survival. "To Kill a Priest" is loosely based on the murder of a cleric who supported solidarity.

Holland has a recurring interest in the victims of war. "Europa, Europa" chronicles a Jewish boys progress through war-torn Germany. And "Bitter Harvest" explores the relationship between a prosperous farmer and the Jewish refugee he shelters.

Finally, we focus on **Leni Rienfenstahl**, a German director who celebrated her 100th birthday this year—and is still making movies! That makes her the oldest living, active filmmaker in the world.

She first attracted attention when **Adolf Hitler** commissioned her to make the hypnotic "Triumph of the Will" (in 1935), a record of the Nazi party's rally at Nuremberg. It was followed by the two-part "Olympiad" (1938), a celebration of the human body and the awesome feats of strength, speed and endurance at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Reinfenstahl went on to direct other movies, and has been a working director for more than 60 years. That's a sterling achievement that other directors, both male and female, would be proud to approximate.

Jacqui Magno and others at Merk's

MERK'S Bar Bistro's cuisine, courtesy of Bistro Remedios, are leaving guests satisfied, but it's the bands and singers that keep people coming back.

Monday Jazz features the Aquarela Latin band, led by front man Miguel Junteau and wife Evelyn on vocals singing Carribean merengue, Brazilian samba and bossa nova as well as Latin pop favorites and original compositions.

Aquarela also includes Nards Reyes on percussion; Teddy Tipon, drums; Dix Lucero, alto sax; Roberto Buena, bass. The band performs alongside musician Romy Psadas.

The 12-member Q & A brings retro vibes every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

After John Lesaca and Richard Merk led the Blackbird Band Reunion on four Saturdays, Jacqui Magno performs on Nov. 16, 30 and Dec. 14 at 9 p.m. Silk and Steel also sings on Saturdays.

Romy Jorolan wows the crowd early Friday evenings.

Romy Posadas on keyboards is featured Monday to Thursday at 5:30 p.m., and during lunchtime Monday until Friday.

Merk's Bar Bistro is at Greenbelt 3 at the Ayala Center.

For reservations, call Rachel at 757-4721.

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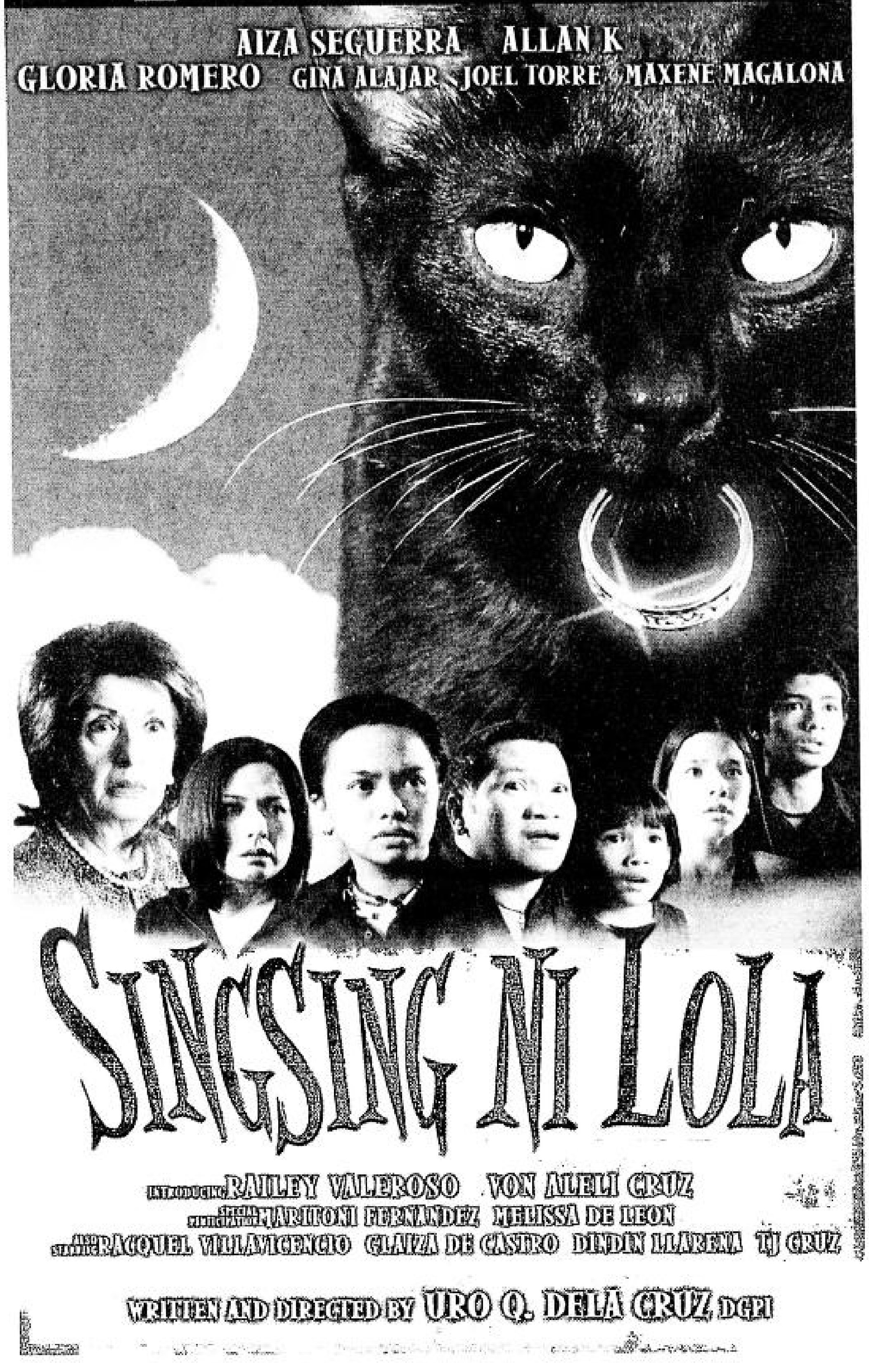

AIZA SEGUERRA ALLAN K
GLORIA ROMERO GINA ALAJAR JOEL TORRE MAXENE MAGALONA
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MARITONI FERNANDEZ MELISSA DE LEON
RACQUEL VILLAVICENCIO CLAIZA DE CASTRO DINDIN LLARENA TJ CRUZ
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY URO Q. DELA CRUZ DGPI

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Salutes the bravery, the spirit, the fire of India's most fearless patriot, a hero who became ... a legend.
He was Bhagat Singh - India's most beloved son. An extraordinary young man who happily became a martyr for his country at the tender age of 23; a revolutionary who single-handedly shook up the powerful British government, exposing their true barbaric nature. A man from whom victory lay in his own death. This is his story
The Legend of BHAGAT SINGH
MTRCB RATING PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
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ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREEBELT 1
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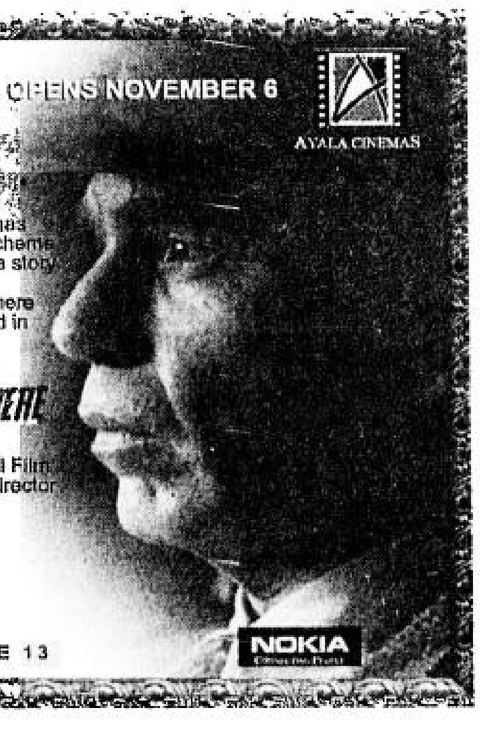
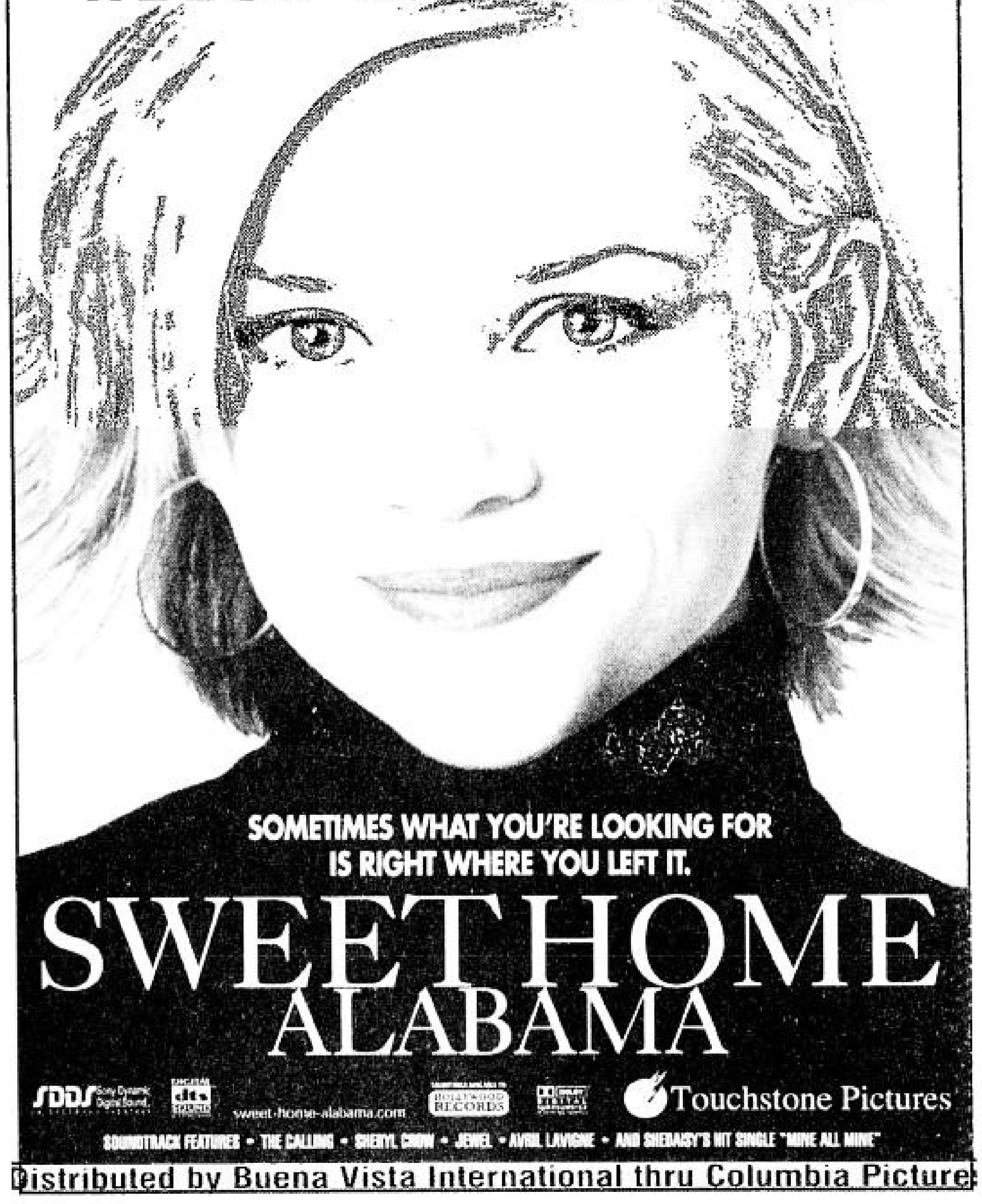


ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
OPENS NOVEMBER 6
AYALA CINEMAS
Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white
THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE a film by JOEL COEN and ETHAN COEN
In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award
"...one of the best films of the year." — Nev Pierce, BBC
"...a beautifully executed film that is remerkable on many, many levels." — Paul Clinton, CNN
MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
NOKIA

FEAR WILL RUN DEEP ON OCT. 31

SEA EVIL
GHOST SHIP
WWW.GHOSTSHIPMOVIE.COM AOL KEYWORD: GHOST SHIP
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

FIND OUT WHY REESE IS AMERICA'S NEWEST SWEETHEART
OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"The Best Romantic Comedy Of The Year! You will fall absolutely in love with Reese Witherspoon." Clay Smith, ACCESS HOLYWOOD
REESE WITHERSPOON



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MTRCB RATING R-18 "THE GREAT HUNT" STARTS TOMORROW!
Exclusively at Glorietta, Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Galleria, SM -Manila

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BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
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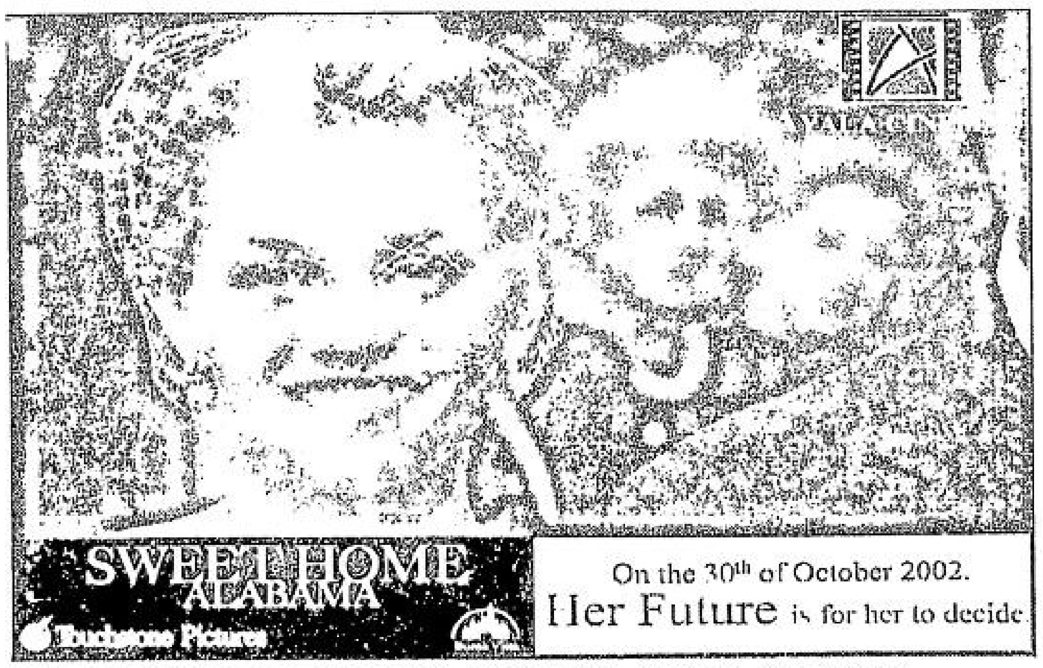

SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
On the 30th of October 2002.
Her Future is for her to decide
OPENS OCTOBER 30 (WED.) AT AYALA CINEMAS.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Ces Drilon is back in business

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD the time of my life with **Rock** and **Ces Drilon** at the painting exhibit of Rock's equally brilliant colleague **Juan Alcazaren** at the Drilons' magazine store and art gallery Mag:Net+ at ABS-CBN's Loop.

The masterpieces of Juan, or Johnny as he is fondly called in art circles, are quite innovative. He uses every imaginable junk to create unique works of art in his one-man show, aptly called "Free Space." Odds and ends such as the plastic tops of film canisters, kitchen trivets, ballpen covers and any thingamajig take on a different twist in Alcazaren's works.

I particularly liked his painting of a row of trees in Paris. It was a hazy rendition highlighted by silver screws all over. While looking at the painting, Ces, Rock, Johnny and I reminisced about the days we spent in Paris. The painter said in jest that the theme of his work was to "Screw Paris" that's why it's laden with screws.

We were all in a green French state of mind as we were sipping our Merlots and Perignons. Johnny said Manila could have been even more beautiful than Paris many pollution years ago. "Fact is, our rivers were clearer than Paris' famed Seine River but too bad they have been neglected all this time."

Ces is excited about the revival of her award-winning show "Usapang Business." This time around she has business reporter **Timi Nubla** and entrepreneur **Raul Francisco** as co-hosts. "U.B." has been cited twice by the Gawad CCP Para sa Telebisyon as one of the 10 best television programs.

Practical business ideas and hot job opportunities, noted chief executives and budding celebrity entrepreneurs are just some of the stories the show will feature. For those on the lookout for employment opportunities, a regular segment called "Hanap: Buhay" will feature hot job openings here and abroad. It airs every Saturday, 5:30-6 p.m., on ANC Channel 21 with replays every Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Ces gushed: "It's a dream come true. It took three years. We had to stop airing in 1998 because some sponsors were quite reluctant not because we were not rating. They just hadn't grasped the market yet at that time. With all the crises we are facing now, I think that it's the perfect time for our comeback, to give people hope that they can rise above the trials by being their own boss."

Whether Ces and I talk business, girly stuff or artsy matters, she sure makes everything sound so easy.

Golden girl

I GOT to chat with a friend I hadn't seen for quite sometime, **Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski.** Even if she won the gold medal in the Asian Games for her equestrienne skills, she remains unaffected.

She's still the same simple Mikee I used to know during our stint with GMA 7 some years ago.

She brought along her adorable sons **Robbie**, 2, and **Raphael**, 10 mos.

I asked her what was more fulfilling, winning gold or giving birth? She said: "I can't compare one to the other. Both events gave me a euphoric feeling."

It's quite ironic that when her time is divided between her horses and babies, it's when she has been able to really excel in her favorite sport. Talk about having the best of both worlds.

"I guess being a mother has inspired me more and taking care of my horses all these years kind of prepared me for motherhood."

Considering that both **Dodot** and she are awesome athletes, will they allow their sons to get into basketball or horse-back riding someday?

"This early Robbie shows signs of being athletic. He's hyper-active for his age. Of course, Dot and I will support our kids in whatever field they want to get into. We won't pressure them to become athletes like us, although we will encourage them to get into sports, not just for health reasons but also for personality development."

Does she have any plans of putting up a riding school? The gold medalist smiled. "I teach kids how to ride. Maybe when I'm older I will look into that. Having my own school would be great."

What a refreshing change to hear good news such as a Pinay winning a gold medal. We definitely need more Mikees now more than ever.

Black night

IN BEHALF of my official headquarters, I'm inviting you to a Halloween party at Friends@ d'Square (St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong) on Wednesday, Oct. 30. The party is called "Black."

Come in black and win prizes. Open bar at 7-8 p.m. for all Friends Privilege card holders. Groove to the music of the Unity band and the cool mixes of DJ's **Brownie** and **Alex.**

Don't let the ghosts from your past haunt you. Let's party on. May the spirit of vodka be with you!

Personal

BIRTHDAY cheers to my friend of perpetual help, **Boy Abunda.** Thanks for believing in me no matter how unbelievably crazy I get. Love yah!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Horror movies on HBO

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MORE spooky movie treats on TV, just in time for Halloween—this time, on the HBO channel:

Friday, Nov. 1 at 9 p.m., "Bats." A group of bloodthirsty genetically-engineered bats terrorizes a small town, and the sheriff and some bat specialists must stop them before they spread. Starring **Lou Diamond Phillips** and **Dina Meyer.**

Saturday, Nov. 2 at 12:55 a.m., "Psycho III." This sequel plays Norman Bates strictly for laughs, but maintains a slasher-film mentality. No suspense, just some gratuitous blood and unpleasantness. **Anthony Perkins'** directorial debut. Good night, Norman.

Sunday, Nov. 3 at 4:15 a.m., "Night Shift." A nerd takes a night job at the city morgue to get some peace and quiet, but his new assistant draws him into a wild scheme to start a prostitution business. Delightful, spooky comedy (despite its seamy subject matter) directed by **Ron Howard. Henry Winkler** has never been better; **Michael Keaton's** smash debut performance made him an instant star.

Feedback

FROM **Emmanuel S. Espino** of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija: "Shows that should have won honors at the recent Star Awards for Television : "The Correspondents" is an intelligent newsmagazine program. It got a Silver-Medal at the New York Festival and the Best News Report from CNN—proof that Filipino stories of hope and courage also touch the hearts of foreigners. Why wasn't it cited here? "And 'Off-the-Record' is another program that should have been honored (as Best Talk Show). It has sharp hosts, does not focus on personal issues and intrigue, and educates viewers."

Women directors abroad

IN A recent column, we wrote about the different time that women have in trying to get to direct movies in this country. How does this compare with the situation in other film-making cultures?

In the west, women directors get a better deal. Here's how they've gone places: **Penny Marshall** began her career in entertainment as a dancer and actress in the theater, then did comedy acting on TV's "Danny Thomas Hour" and "Saturday Night Live."

She began directing with "Jumpin' Jack Flash," a well-received spy comedy, and hit the jackpot with "Big" (1988), about a boy inside a man's body. The film grossed multi-millions and made a star of **Tom Hanks**, whose career has been on an upward trajectory ever since.

Other films directed by Marshall include "Awakenings" with **Robin Williams** and **Robert De Niro,**

HORROR/ A31

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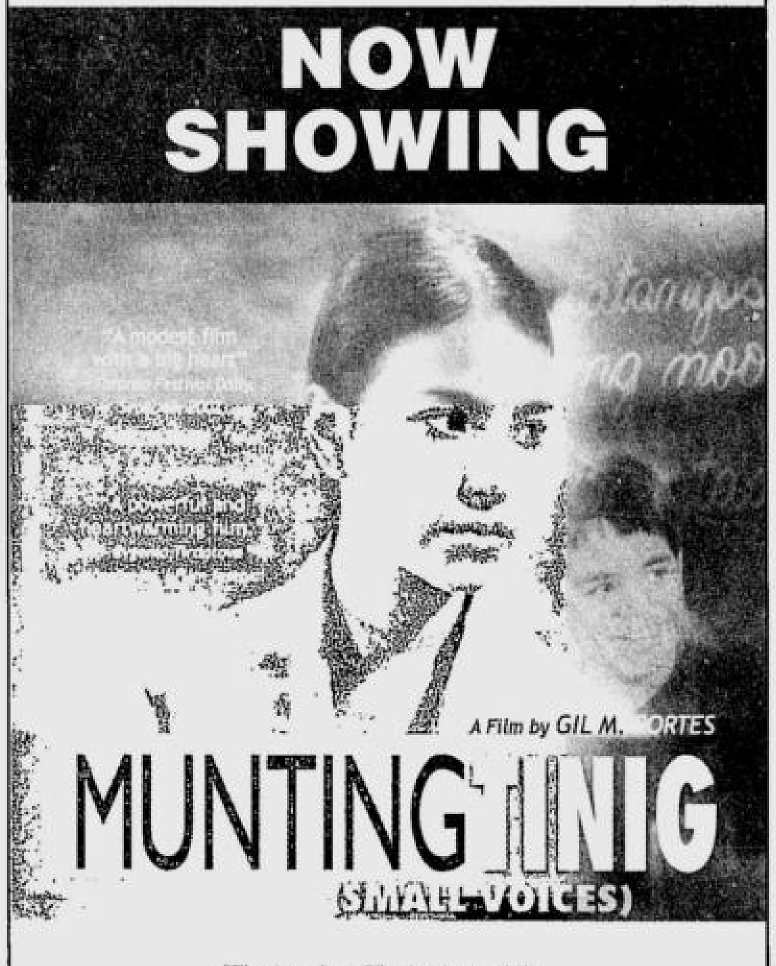

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"Smoothly and sensitively directed...a profoundly affecting and hopeful film."
- Steve Gravestock, Program Manager, Toronto Int'l Film Festival

"Very unique. It should do well in the OSCAR race for Best Foreign Language Film."
- Jacob M. Nellendam, Nordic Correspondent, Screen International

"It's an uplifting, optimistic film, much needed in our current times."
- Liz Czach, Programmer, Perspective Canada

"A rare Philippine film. No violence, no gratituos sex, no overbearing melodramatic crying."
- Association of Asian-American Film Critics, U.S.A.

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / SEX & ZEN
ODEON	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	BEDTIME STORY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MINORITY REPORT / SLACKERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BEDTIME STORY
REMAR	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
REMAR-2	BEDTIME STORY
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
B	BEDTIME STORY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORY
CINEMA-3	BESTMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-6	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARISUKAT
CINEMA-8	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-15	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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9 MORNINGS GP 12:00,2:15,4:30, 6:45,9:00	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	BALLISTIC P13 11:45,1:45,3:45, 5:50,7:55,10:00
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION - R18 11:50,1:45,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	POSSESSION P13 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50, 9:00	RED DRAGON R18 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10

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R 18

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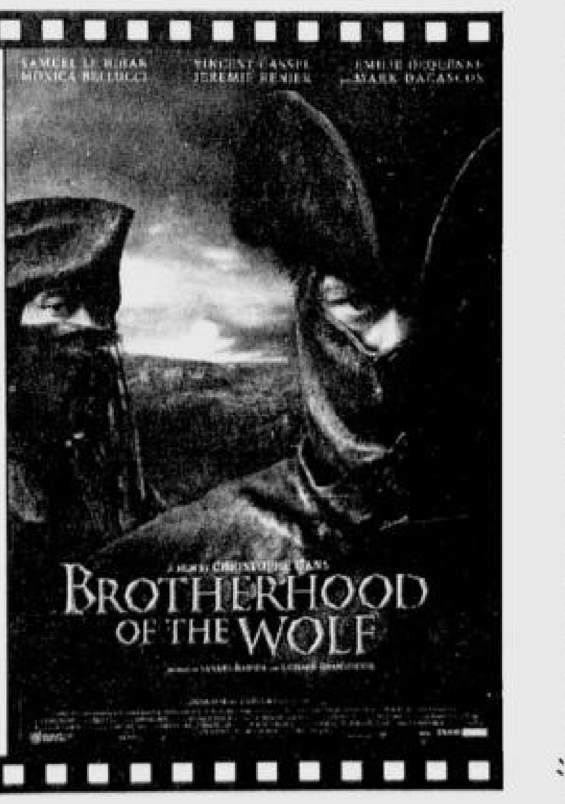

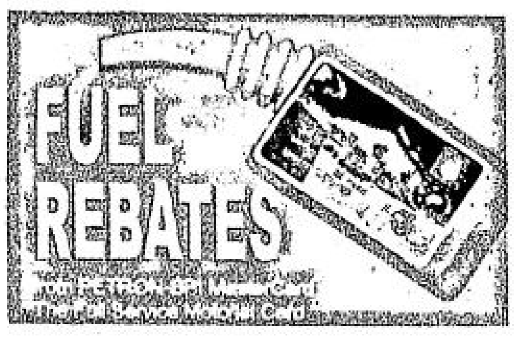

BUSINESS

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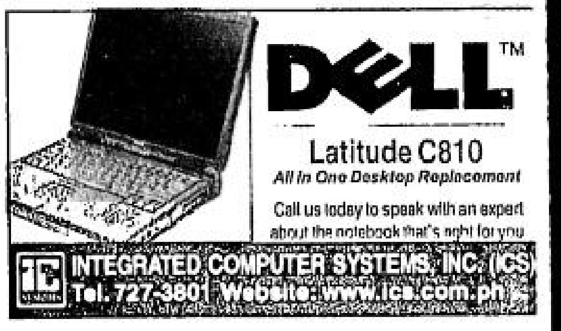
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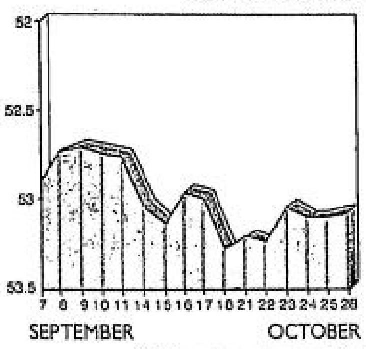

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2002

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 28, 2002

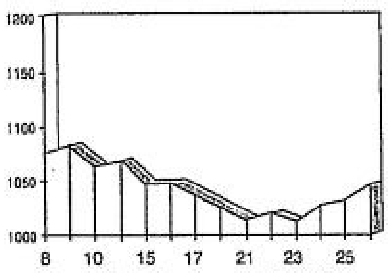
GOLD: $313.20-313.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 28, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up 1.45%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS closed more than one percent higher yesterday, driven by heavy speculative buying in PLDT, the country's biggest telecom firm.

The stock rose P18, or 8.1 percent, to P238 on the reported sale of a 15-percent stake to US-based investment firm Newbridge Capital. The company's denial of the report briefly stalled the rise, before it surged again closing just off its intraday high of P241.

"I think some big players in the market are just trying to play up the stock, trying to take advantage of the newspaper report that the shares could be sold at a premium," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities Inc.

The PSE main index closed up 14.96 points, or 1.45 percent, at 1,047.05, its third successive day of rises.

Turnover reached P728.1 million from P637.64 million last Friday but much of it was accounted for by cross transactions. Ong said 812,000 Globe Telecom shares were crossed at P400 a share, while around P62 million worth of Ayala Land shares also changed hands in a cross sale.

While the market's rise for a third straight day was encouraging, Ong said he did not see much further upside for the main index as it neared near-term resistance.

"I think tomorrow the market will have some difficulty getting above the resistance of 1,050 points. Over the next two days people will probably want to cash out and stay liquid ahead of the holidays." The market will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the All Saints Day and All Souls Day holidays.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury said the government could finance a budget deficit of as much as P200 billion this year if it would push through with the auction of government securities in December.

The government's fiscal gap ballooned to P166.4 billion as of September, a level equivalent to 4.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

The Treasury had planned to cancel the auction of P12 billion worth of bills and bonds in December as it expected to raise sufficient funds from a peso borrowing worth as much as P20 billion in November.

The Treasury is working out a three- to five-year loan with local banks to be handled by HSBC. Edeza said the loan could range from P5 billion to P20 billion.

This borrowing would have been used by the Treasury to replace the auctions in December when markets are traditionally tight and the higher offers end up being rejected by the government anyway.

Edeza said the market remained reluctant on buying the dollar-linked peso bonds that the government had planned to issue last September. The market, according to Edeza, was asking for a return that was a percentage point higher than what the Treasury was willing to pay.

"If the market won't take the risks, then we won't assume it for them. The problem with the market is that it thinks it's grown up, but they bid like babies," the treasurer said.

Still, the government believed it could contain the deficit at 4.5 percent of GDP or about P180 billion. At this level, Edeza said the government has sufficient funds to bridge the gap.

Edeza said that with the local and foreign borrowings during the first half, the government could safely finance a deficit of P170 billion.

He said the proceeds of a $300-million borrowing from the five-year eurobond market last September increased the flexibility of the government.

The planned P20-billion loan from domestic banks should also shore up government finances.

Edeza cautioned the market against speculating on the deficit at this point as the numbers, even if these were larger, might still change by the fourth quarter when revenues are traditionally stronger and expenditures should taper down.

The central bank said a deficit-to-GDP ratio of 4.5 percent should not worry the market as it had been fully financed by the Treasury, which means the government need not increase its domestic borrowings and this should keep local interest rates stable.

Government caught between the devil and the deep blue sea

By Doris C. Dumlao

(Second of three parts)

B-One

WITHIN the next 10 years, the Philippines will have to raise around $45 billion to meet its fast-growing infrastructure requirements, a Herculean task for a government saddled with huge budget deficits and for a private sector weakened by the Asian financial crisis.

The wave of infrastructure projects in the 1990s, particularly those related to the power sector, has already forced the government to assume heavy contingent liabilities worth up to $3.75 billion, according to the World Bank.

"Given the government's highly constrained fiscal position, it would be unwise to continue large open-ended financial commitments to support private participation in infrastructure in the future," the World Bank said in a development policy review.

Yet, the government seems to have no choice but to yield to certain private-sector prerequisites, such as guarantees and subsidies, if only to encourage participation in infrastructure projects.

"We are often caught between the devil and the deep blue sea," Ruben Reinoso, assistant director general for infrastructure of the National Economic and Development Authority, said. "If we don't meet the infrastructure requirements, we won't attain our economic growth targets."

The Philippine government's Medium Term Development Program recognizes that

GOVERNMENT/ B4

PLDT not selling stake to Newbridge

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said it had no plans of issuing new shares to US investment firm Newbridge Capital Inc. or to any other new investor.

PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan said: "As a commercial matter, it would simply not make sense for PLDT to issue new shares at current market prices. I would not even contemplate about this as an option, and I am absolutely certain this view is shared by both our board and shareholders. As a corollary but obvious point, it must be untrue that management is going against the wishes of certain shareholders on this very same point (as suggested by the article)."

Pangilinan added that based on the existing authorized capital of PLDT, the company did not have sufficient number of common shares left in its authorized capi-

PLDT/ B4

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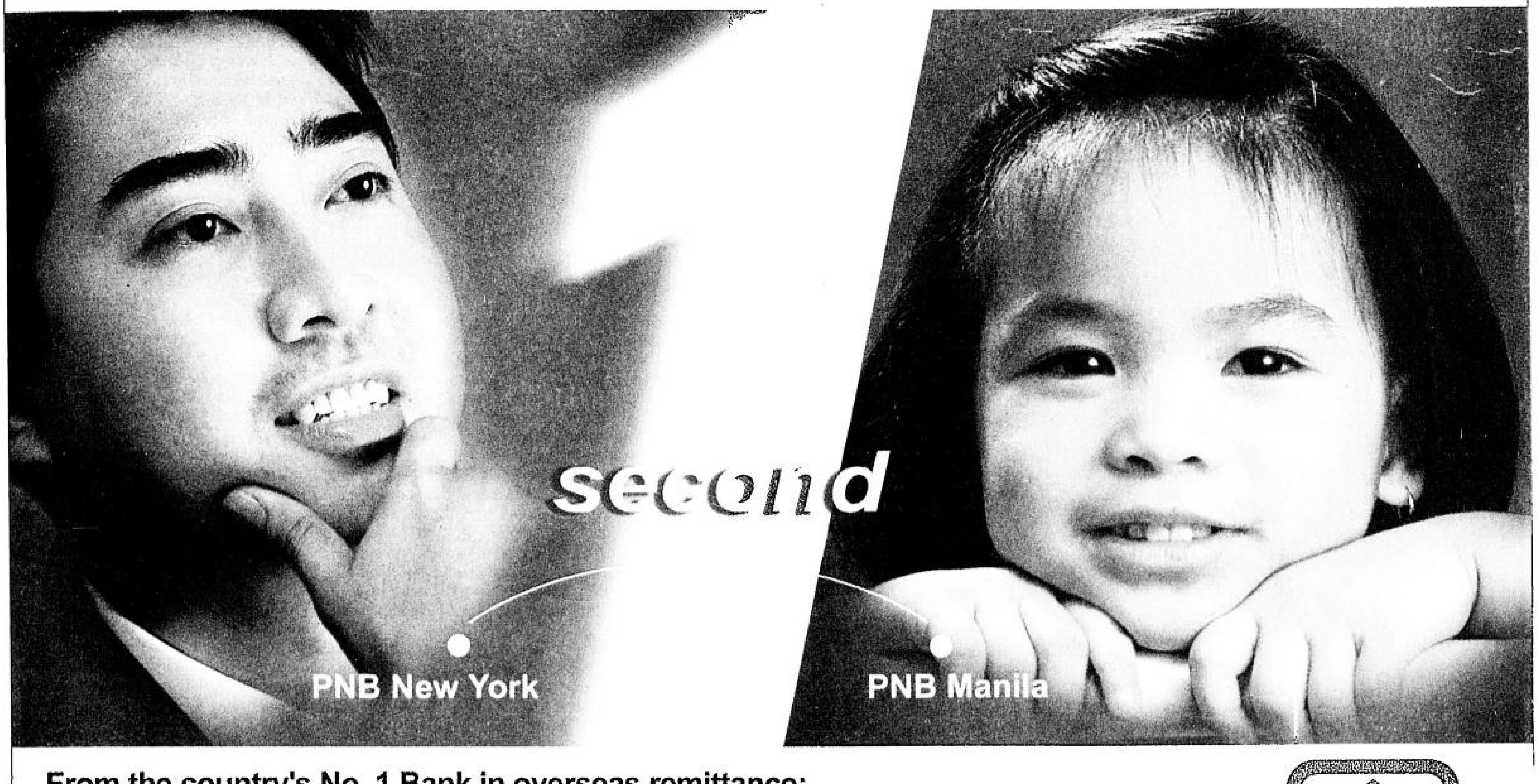

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DTI to seek cut in duties on banana exports to Korea

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will bat for a bigger market for Philippine bananas in Korea by seeking the lowering of the duties imposed by the Korean government on the product.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the Korean government was planning to review its tariffs by December this year and that the Philippines would use this as an opportunity to gain more access for the country's banana exports.

"There may be a chance for the reduction of tariffs on our banana exports to Korea. The Philippines accounts for 90 percent of Korea's banana imports and a reduction of the tariff may generate better business," said Roxas who met with his Korean counterparts at the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit in Mexico.

Korea currently slaps a 50-percent duty on Philippine bananas—30 percent for the basic duty and 20 percent for the adjustment tariff. The DTI noted that bananas were the only fruit import subjected to an adjustment tariff which was imposed usually on goods that have exceeded the quantity restrictions set by the Korean government.

Higher banana exports should improve the country's balance of trade with Korea, the country's fifth largest trading partner, which enjoys a $612-million surplus in the two-way traffic.

Bananas are the the country's top fruit export with $301.3 million sold in 2001 or 82 percent of total fruit exports.

Roxas is optimistic that the country stands a better chance of getting wider access for its fruits in Korea than in other countries, specifically Australia.

"Korea has gradually improved the access of our banana exports since 1995 by eliminating the 10-percent value added tax and reducing the basic and adjustment tariffs," Roxas said.

During the Apec sessions, Roxas met with Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaille who offered to a hold a ministerial meeting in Sydney early next year to resolve the Philippines' protest over Australia's restrictive Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Philippine pineapples and bananas.

apec
CEO SUMMIT
MEXICO 2002

President Macapagal (R), Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri (L) and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark (C) attend a working breakfast with business leaders in Los Cabos, Mexico, Oct. 26, 2002 on the sidelights of the Apec Summit. AFP

PLDT gets 15 days to answer Piso raps

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has given Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. 15 days to answer predatory pricing charges filed against it by a group of Internet firms.

The Philippine Internet Services Organization filed last week an eight-page complaint accusing PLDT of trying to kill independent Internet service providers through unfair pricing schemes.

In an eight-page complaint, Piso accused PLDT of charging independent ISPs higher monthly rates for its telephone lines as compared with the rates it charged other business customers.

The group is complaining that PLDT has been charging ISPs almost double the amount it imposes on other companies for the use of its trunk lines.

While a normal trunk line costs P1,890 a month, ISPs have to pay PLDT around P2,700 a month, according to Piso.

It added that PLDT's digital subscriber line—or "always on" Internet access—service was priced even lower for individual consumers at P2,500 a month than for bulk consumers like ISPs.

Piso president Julia Theresa Yap said her group wanted to press PLDT into lowering the monthly fees it was charging ISPs, stop it from engaging in predatory pricing schemes and open its high-speed data infrastructure.

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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	240,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350,000	300,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	550,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	300,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
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Motorola offers new models

THE LAUNCHING of Motorola's MotoBlitz in the country signifies the company's confidence in the local market. The objective of this global campaign is to deliver 'A Moto for Everyone' through its collection of distinctively designed mobile phones.

"Motorola is confident in the local market. As a global leader, we continue to create and innovate new products to meet the demands of today's dynamic and discriminating clientele," said Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's marketing manage for consumer solutions group in South Asia.

MotoBlitz introduced four mobile phones such as Motorola E360, C330, T720 and V60i, which were specifically designed to meet different requirements in a mobile phone.

"The grand debut of Motorola's latest series of mobile phones takes us beyond the basic shades of black and white handsets to a vibrantly rich and colorful phones," Suarez adds.

Gov't sees savings of $277M from Mirant deals revisions

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT stands to save between $277 million and $387 million over the next 24 years as it clinched an agreement with Mirant Philippines on certain revisions of its independent power producers (IPP) contract with the National Power Corp.

The Department of Energy said in a statement that, along with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., it had resolved all outstanding issues on the contracts between Napocor and Mirant that were raised during a review of government deals with independent power producers (IPP).

Mirant, the biggest IPP in the country, accounts for a total generating capacity of about 2,500 megawatts.

In June, a Malacañang-appointed inter-agency review committee included Mirant contracts in a list of deals whose financial and legal aspects needed further review.

In a telephone interview, PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said that the agreement would result in savings of about $11 million per year from the reduced rates of electricity bought from Mirant's Pagbilao plant.

PSALM is taking over Napocor's generating plants and the IPP contracts.

Del Fonso said the savings from the Pagbilao plant alone could translate to about $260 million since the existing build-operate-transfer contract for the 700-MW power plant in Quezon was good for another 24 years or until 2026.

The government was also relieved from about $4 million in yearly expenses on previously disputed issues including the payment of local taxes. "Mirant has agreed to adopt Napocor's terms on these issues," Del Fonso said.

The official added that the government also expected a one-time gain of $28.8 million from certain amendments to the contracts governing the Navotas gas turbine plants, which the American firm also operates under a BOT arrangement.

The amount consisted of $16.7 million worth of electricity, for which Napocor had revoked the exclusive right to buy.

"Instead of paying that amount under the existing contracts, Mirant agreed to pay the government $12.1 million under the new agreement," Del Fonso said.

Ayala income may hit ₱800M

AYALA Corp. may post a slight increase in its nine-month profit, despite what is expected to be a dismal third quarter at its important telecom unit.

"We're seeing a net income between P600 million and P800 million for Ayala Corp for the third quarter. That will bring its net income above P3 billion for the nine months, which is better than last year," a stock analyst from a foreign brokerage house said.

"But for the third quarter, the picture is not pretty and Globe (Telecom) is a major factor," the analyst said.

The conglomerate, which recorded a net profit of P2.52 billion for the nine-month period in 2001, is due to report its results in around two weeks. Globe Telecom Inc will report its result on Wednesday.

Globe Telecom, just over a quarter owned by Ayala, has been a major source of profits for the conglomerate, but for the July-September period Globe faces a 2.2 billion peso asset write-off due to restructuring at its wireless unit.

Globe Telecom had warned that it expected its third-quarter profit to be around P1 billion, lower than each of the two previous quarters.

The telecom firm recorded a net income of P804.595 million for the third quarter last year.

"Globe Telecom is a consistent income driver and it had hinted that its third-quarter net might be down. We're concerned that actual earnings might be down. That will affect Ayala Corp," said ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Andrew Long.

Globe's other main shareholders are Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. with 28 percent and Deutsche Telekom AG with 24.8 percent.

Analysts expected only slightly better news from other members of the Ayala group, such as Ayala Land and Bank of Philippine Islands.

Reuters

AEV posts 60% increase in profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. yesterday reported a 60-percent increase in net profits to P651 million in the third quarter of the year from a year ago. The profit increase was attributed to the strong performance of its power and banking businesses.

In a statement yesterday, AEV said its net earnings for the first nine months of the year reached P1.8 billion, 49 percent better than the level during the same period last year.

For the nine-month period, AEV said the consolidation of shipping firm WG&A fueled an 89-percent increase in its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) to P4.49 billion. Without WG&A, however, its Ebitda would still have improved by 29 percent.

"Despite the weak economy, most of AEV's business groups registered improved earnings, with its power subsidiaries still the biggest earners," AEV said.

Aboitiz Power Corp. contributed P1.39 billion to AEV's income for the nine-month period, 50 percent higher than its contribution in the same period last year.

AEV's banking subsidiaries posted the highest growth in income contribution amounting to P391 million from January to September or 57 percent better than a year ago.

Particularly, flagship banking unit Union Bank of the Philippines reported a 65-percent rise in net income to P1.72 billion, owing to a 26-percent rise in revenues to P2.96 billion. The higher revenues were attributed to the strong growth in its capital market activity, private banking, cash management and consumer banking.

AEV and Aboitiz Power continued to receive a strong cash dividend flow from the operating subsidiaries amounting to P1.15 billion for the first three quarters. This allowed AEV to increase its cash position as of Sept. 30 to P1.99 billion.

UnionBank net income up 65%

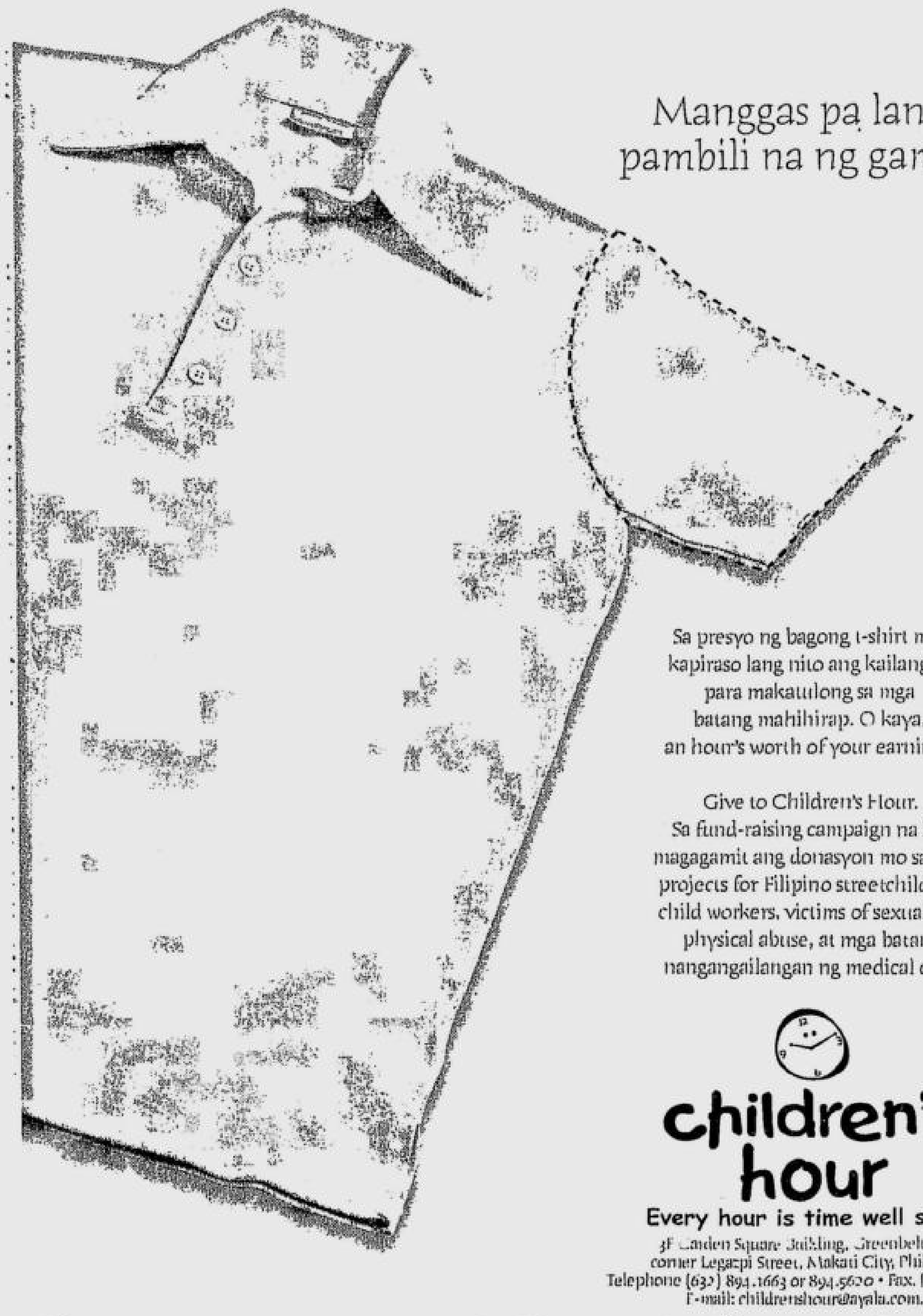
UNION Bank of the Philippines posted a net profit of P1.172 billion in the first three quarters of the year, 65 percent higher than the year-ago level and well within the bank's profit forecast for the year.

Revenues hit P2.96 billion, up 26 percent from P2.35 billion last year. The bank cited as among the reasons for the profit increase to the strong growth in its capital market activity, private banking, cash management and consumer banking.

Total resources expanded by 28 percent from end-December 2001 level of P53.65 billion to P68.74 billion as of Sept. 30, 2002. Deposits rose 40 percent from P28.01 in end-December 2001 to P39.19 billion.

Capital funds reached P13.26 billion in the third quarter as a result of a risk-adjusted capital adequacy ratio of 39.01 percent, almost four times the BSP requirement of 10 percent, more than twice the industry's 16.7 percent and up from 32.98 percent as of June 30, 2002.

UnionBank also has set aside P242.5 million in additional loan loss reserves in the first nine months of the year to bring its reserve cover to 79.29 percent. Its non-performing loans as a percent of total loans stood at 12.9 percent as against industry average of 17.58 percent as of end-August.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PLDT drops suit vs First Pacific

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has filed a notice of dismissal of a case it filed more than three months ago with a United States district court against its parent firm, First Pacific Co. Ltd.

In a disclosure to the PSE yesterday, the telecommunications firm said the case it filed on July 3 against the Hong Kong-based firm was now moot and academic as the subject of the case, First Pacific's memorandum of agreement with the Gokongwei group, had already been terminated.

"It will be recalled that the company filed this complaint in July 2002 to compel the First Pacific Group to file an amended Schedule 13D attaching a copy of the memorandum of agreement between the First Pacific Group, Gokongwei Group and JG Summit Holdings Inc. concerning the transfer of First Pacific Group's interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.," it said.

Under section 13d of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934, a company's shareholders are entitled to full information regarding a possible change in ownership in that company through proper disclosure.

These relevant information included parties seeking to control the company, how this control would be exercised and other material terms of the agreement between buyer and seller.

The case filed with the US District Court of New York resulted in First Pacific's disclosure of the agreement on July 18.

First Pacific has yet to reveal its post-Gokongwei plans for its 24.47-percent stake in PLDT.

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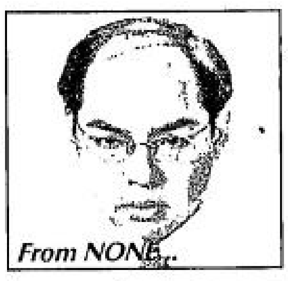
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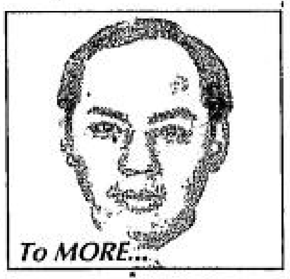
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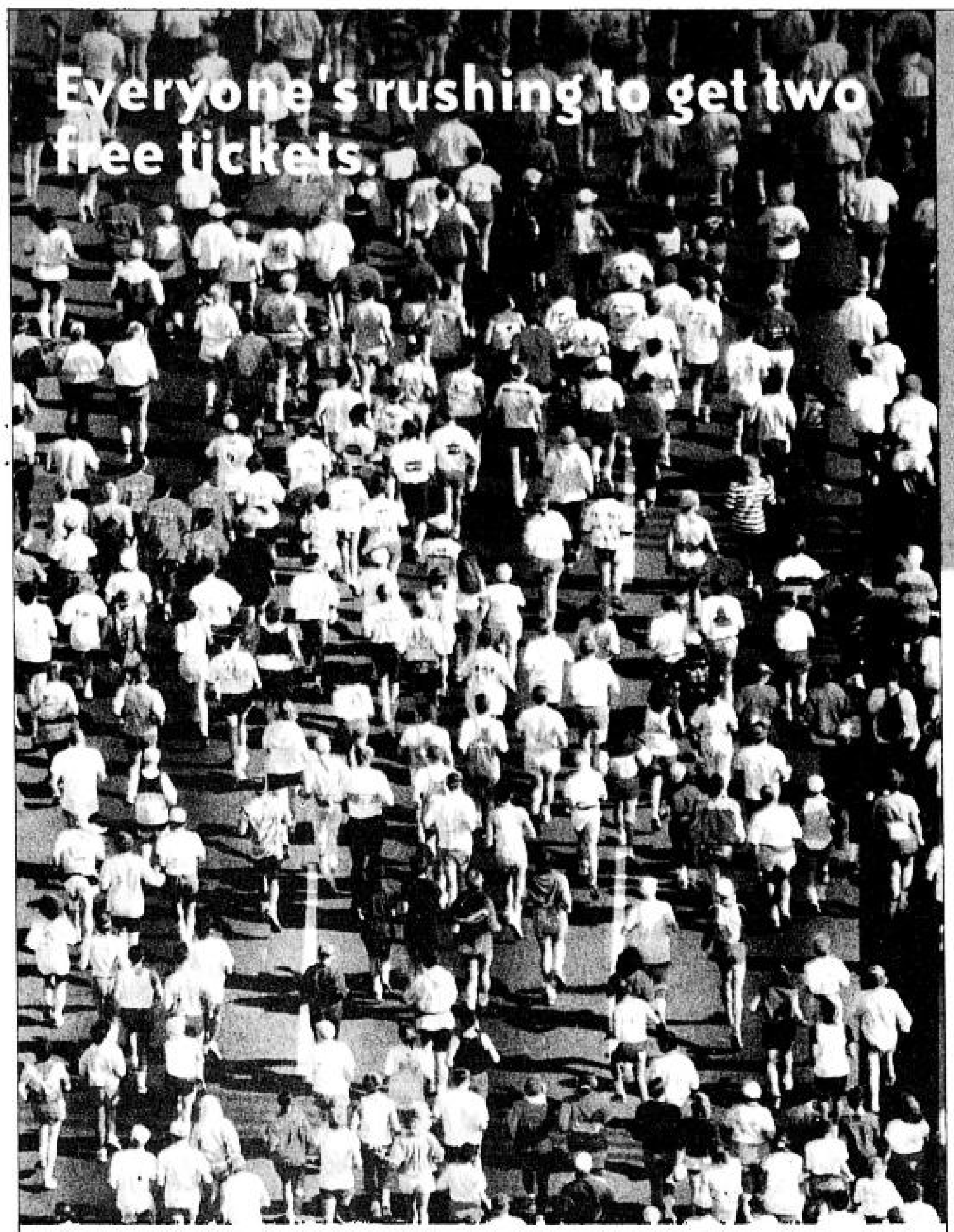
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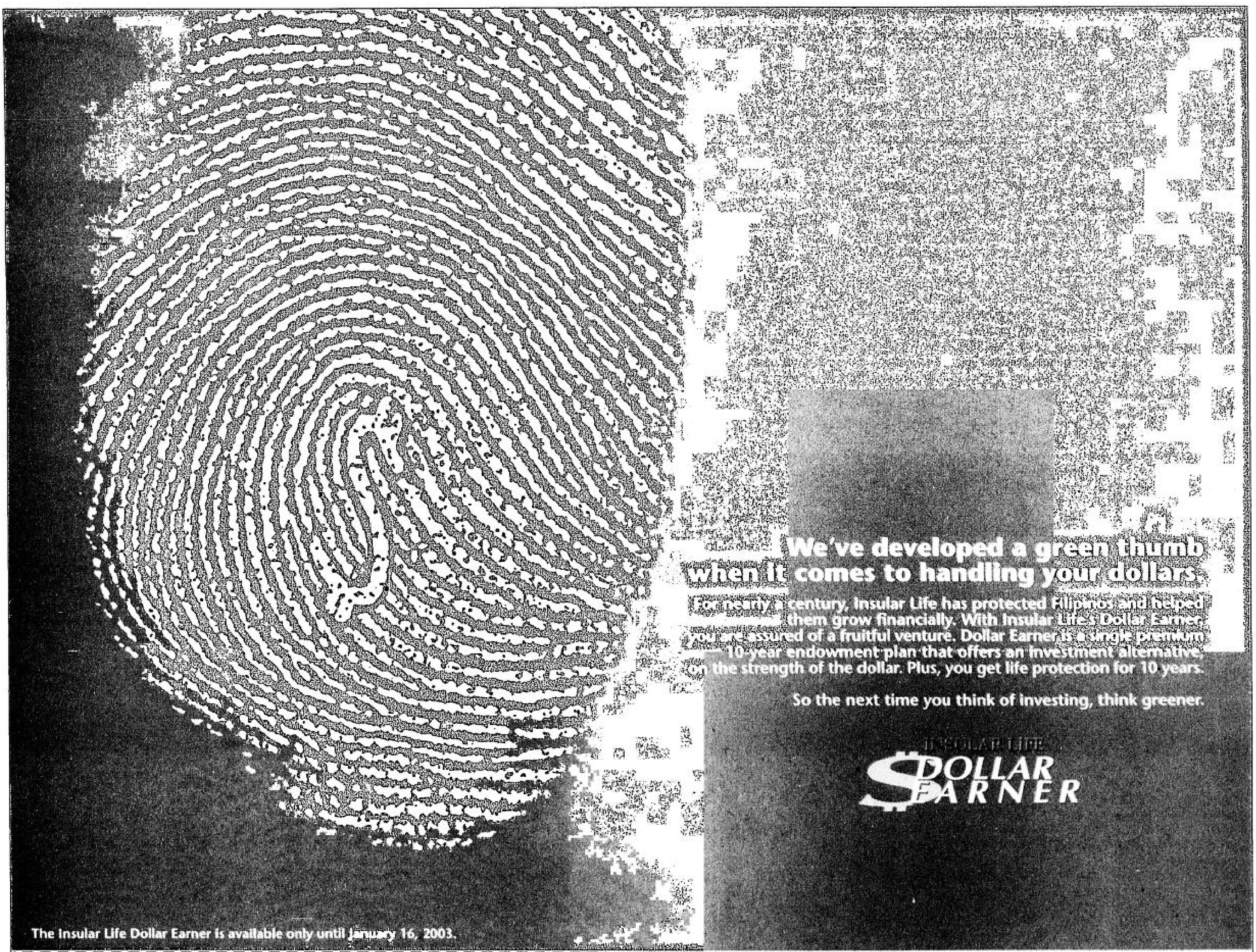
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McGeorge, Golden Arches set merger; Yang to retain top post

By Elena R. Torrijos

MCGEORGE Food Industries Inc. and Golden Arches Development Co., both jointly owned by businessman George Yang and McDonald's Corp., yesterday informed government regulators of their plan to merge.

According to documents submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, McDonald's plans to raise its investments in Golden Arches by around $1.5 million (around P80 million).

McGeorge operates and holds the franchise for McDonald's restaurants in the Philippines, while Golden Arches owns, leases and manages properties that house these restaurants.

In a statement, McDonald's said the management structure would remain intact, with Yang still at the helm as president and chair.

"The entire senior management team of McDonald's operations in the Philippines will remain in place as before," a McDonald's official explained.

The merger will not affect Yang's stake in the joint venture. The businessman will own the same percentage of McDonald's Philippine business after the merger.

According to McDonald's, the only change that will result from the merger is that employees of McGeorge will automatically be absorbed by Golden Arches.

"McGeorge employees will have all of their benefits and seniority transferred to Golden Arches intact," a McDonald's official disclosed.

YANG: Still top man.

Meralco 3rd quarter net falls as expected

THE MANILA Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor, said yesterday its third quarter net income fell 37 percent on the year despite higher sales as it continued to await a tariff hike.

Analysts said they had expected the results to be weaker than in previous quarters.

Meralco, the country's dominant power retailer with 3.8 million customers in the capital Manila and nearby provinces, said net profit in the period stood at P281.93 million against P450.31 million in the third quarter of 2001.

The company said operating revenues in the quarter dipped to P29 billion from P32.85 billion, while its operating income fell to P723.23 million from P1.26 billion.

Meralco A shares closed Monday down 1.47 percent at P16.75, and its B shares, which can also be held by foreigners, closed up 1.12 percent at P22.5. The main index ended up 1.45 percent.

Analysts said the company had told them the third quarter would be weaker than the second.

"They indicated for the first nine months that earnings would probably be down around 50 percent and for the third quarter the decline could be greater than the decline in the second quarter," said an analyst with a local brokerage, who declined to be named.

Meralco said nine-month net income was at P747.18 million from P1.4 billion. It said, however, that sales in the third quarter were up 1.9 percent on the previous year, at 5.93 million kilowatt-hours. *Reuters*

Government caught between the devil...

From page B1

the development of the country's infrastructure—particularly in power, water and transportation—is necessary to support the modernization of the agriculture sector, growth of tourism and decongestion of urban traffic.

The policy is, thus, to encourage the private sector to provide infrastructure through the continued use of the build-operate-transfer scheme and its variants. This will enable the government to devote a greater amount of resources for basic services and rural infrastructure, which may not be financially viable for the private sector.

On the other hand, the infrastructure areas that the government is obliged to undertake on its own as part of its poverty alleviation agenda are: farm-to-market and feeder roads, feeder ports, irrigation, rural water supply and missionary electrification.

Constraints

Before the currency crisis, a major dilemma in the government's privatization efforts, particularly when it came to public utilities like water, was how to draw private-sector participation without creating new monopolies.

"We didn't want a group dominating infrastructure sectors, but at the same time, there were only a few groups with (financial) capabilities," Neda's Reinoso said.

Some concerns over monopolies, for instance, emerged when the Ayalas and Lopezes—two of the country's most powerful business families—won concessions covering the operations of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

The Ayalas have core interests in telecommunications (Globe Telecom Inc.), property (Ayala Land Inc.) and banking (Bank of the Philippines Islands). Its interests in infrastructure include water concession Manila Water Co. and a 15.8-percent stake in Metro Railway Transit Corp.

The Lopezes' Benpres Holdings Corp., meanwhile, is the local conglomerate most heavily exposed to infrastructure: telecoms (Bayan Telecommunications Philippines Corp.); power generation (First Generation Holdings Corp.); water (Maynilad Water Services Inc.); power distribution (Meralco); and, road transport (Manila North Tollways Corp.)

In June, Benpres announced that it would restructure close to $600 million in mostly dollar-denominated debts. It has defaulted on interest payments on its eurobonds and long-term commercial papers since then.

Benpres chair and chief executive Oscar Lopez said a prolonged slump in Asia, political turmoil locally, international capital flight and "investment mistakes" contributed to the derailment of the company's business model.

"Most damaging of all, however, was the devaluation of the peso, relative to the dollar, from 26 to more than 50 to a dollar. Virtually overnight, we saw our dollar-based obligations double in peso terms. We could not hedge these obligations. We could not refinance them. Nor could we pass the added costs to our customers," Lopez said.

As a result, he said, Benpres is now focusing on two flagship businesses: media (ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.) and power (First Generation), while its investments in other areas would be considered as non-core and open for disposition. It has vowed to downsize its portfolio to emerge as a leaner, less leveraged and more focused organization.

On the other hand, while the Ayala group has remained one of the groups most resilient to the crisis, it has similarly started to realign its businesses, streamline excess fats and rationalize its non-core interests in infrastructure.

It has shelved a $300-million South Luzon railway project linking Manila to the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon region, noting that "the economics has changed." It has likewise put up for sale its minority stake in the MRT project.

Subsidy, pricing issues

For some infrastructure projects to remain viable, some key issues include pricing and subsidies, which simply indicate that government intervention—or the lack of it—can be a double-edged sword.

Pricing of utilities, for instance, often becomes more of a political rather than an economic issue.

Benpres laments that Meralco's petition for a tariff increase to meet its creditors' profitability requirements has yet to be resolved.

"It has now been more than eight years since Meralco was last allowed by the government to raise its rates. This notwithstanding, Meralco has become a favored target by many interest groups with their own agenda. It is vilified for merely passing on to its consumers the higher cost of power purchased from the National Power Corp. and other independent power suppliers," Lopez said.

When the economy is performing poorly, Lopez says, it appears that providers of essential public services become "society's favorite whipping boys."

"Unfortunately, we cannot sustain quality services at a loss. Businesses will exist only if they are able to serve the needs of their customers. But businesses will also exist only if their stockholders earn a reasonable rate of return on their capital," Lopez stressed.

Neda's Reinoso said the government would always end up subsidizing public utilities.

He said in the case of the Skyway elevated highway project south of Metro Manila, the original study found it feasible to operate without any government subsidy, and the only assistance given by the government was on the right-of-way needed by the elevated toll road.

However, because the operator of the highway could not implement the toll rate level needed for it to be viable and due to political pressures, the government again ended up picking the tab.

The same was true with the MRT-3 line, which MRT Corp. turned over to the Department of Transportation and Communications in July 2000.

Reinoso said the government had no choice but to charge a rate lower than needed to break even from the cost of operating the railway. As such, the government loses about P1 billion a year from operating MRT-3.

"But of course there are economic benefits for everyone, even those who are not riding the MRT, because it lessens traffic congestion, while it allows commuters to save on traveling time," Reinoso said.

PEOPLE in a rowdy queue to drain water from a busted pipe. Despite private sector control, water distribution remains a big problem.

Unstable regime

Investors are also concerned that after spending tons of money on a certain project, they may see the rules changed in the middle of the game.

The controversial Philippine International Air Terminals Co. deal and the renegotiation of contracts with independent power producers are some of the recent cases that have put the Philippines in a bad light.

The government sought an "amicable settlement" with Piatco covering the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 due to "onerous" provisions allegedly inserted through supplemental contracts under the Estrada administration.

Critics hit the contract for containing provisions that allegedly ensured unregulated, monopolistic profits for Piatco. Airlines, concessionaires and service operators also lamented that Piatco did not respect the concession agreement at Terminals 1 and 2 and the right of airlines to self-control or select their ground handlers.

Following the controversy, Frankfurt Airport Authority AG, the German partner which owns a 30-percent stake in the project, has already offered to sell out to the government. However, a takeover by the government is seen as contrary to its privatization and deregulation policies.

Another issue that is sending shivers down investors' spines is the government's review of the 35 IPP contracts that are, in turn, blamed for high electricity rates in the country. Although the country is no longer lacking in supply of power generators, the issue is that the cost of electricity is still one of the highest in Asia, as the contracts were mostly on a take-or-pay basis, which means that the agreed supply will still be paid for whether or not actually consumed.

Of the 35 IPP contracts, only six were cleared from any legal or financial issues, while five were found out to be "defective" and subject to legal action. Twenty seven were put up for renegotiation.

"At that time when the contracts were entered into, that was the best deal the government could get. But we can renegotiate now because the environment has changed. We can request the IPPs for a slight reduction in rates because, unlike before when the economy was down and the risks were high, the situation is more stable now," Neda's Reinoso said.

However, despite the government's good intention behind the IPP review—to bring down the cost of electricity—the move inevitably caused concerns not only among those with a stake in the sector but among stock market investors as well.

Erramon Aboitiz, chief operating officer of Abotiz Equity Ventures, which has core interests in power generation and distribution and banking, said in an interview: "What is important is that investors are allowed a reasonable rate of return and that contracts are honored."

"That's why we have to be careful with the renegotiation of the IPPs because when investors and creditors see that contracts are not being honored, they are quick to change sentiment. At the end of the day, whereas everyone wants the investors to have a lower rate of return, at that level will it still be able to attract capital?" Aboitiz noted. *(To be concluded)*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, October 28, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bano de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	42	42.5	395,400
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	650
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	27	27	402,900
First E-Bank Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31	323,900
Philippine National Bank	24	25	24	25	5,500
Security Bank Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	2,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	14,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1175	1165	1170	1,150
Sun Life Financial Serv.	965	965	965	965	190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	7,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	397.5	400	397.5	397.5	812,900
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	100,000
Piltel	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.23	3,050,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	221	241	221	238	676,640
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	13,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	534,700
Petron Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.44	932,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	45,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.16	2,905,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	16,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	219,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	360,000
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	79,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	60.5	61	87,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	2,627,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.08	2.24	2.08	2.24	53,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	2,080,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	90,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	5,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	207,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	42,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	1,160,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.8	3	2.4	2.7	27,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.54	183,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	22,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Pryce Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.7	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	27,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	53,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	25,507,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.95	5,240,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.03	47,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	75,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	454,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,197,890	39,891,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	28,197,140	548,756,470.00
PRO	78,676,000	139,252,000.00
Mining	5,040,000	18,000.00
OIL	3,000,000	10,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	116,116,030	727,943,770.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	411.22	UP 7.38
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,448.12	UP 18.96
PRO	463.21	UP 4.16
Mining	1,119.20	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.34	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	627.85	DOWN 6.04
Composite	1,047.05	UP 14.96

DISCLOSURES

SOLID Group Inc. bought 400,000 of its own shares at 31 centavos each on Oct. 25.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.** has approved the raising of tier 2 capital, the amount and terms of which shall be subject to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

* * *

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. has denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in the price of its shares.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc. has bought 85.3 million shares of **Robinsons Land Corp.** at P1.50 each and 60.9 million shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P3.15 each.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Pancake House Inc.** has resolved to pay the company's president and chief executive a gross monthly salary of P103,000. Also, the company approved its statement of policies and procedures pursuant to the anti-money laundering act. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PLDT not selling...

From page B1

tal structure which could be issued to a new investor at the purported level of 15 percent.

"Given this situation, it would be foolhardy for management to defy the sentiments of PLDT's shareholders. Such a transaction would require the increase in the authorized capital stock of PLDT, a fundamental corporate matter that will require the approval of common and preferred shareholders representing at least two-thirds of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of PLDT," Pangilinan said.

If indeed new shares were to be issued, Pangilinan said management would have to seek approval and justify the reasons for it and a shareholders' meeting would have to be convened by the board to approve an increase in authorized capital.

CURRENCIES

Oct. 28, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.024066	1.000000	53.0940
Japan	Yen	0.008242	0.008048	0.4273
United Kingdom	Pound	1.588633	1.551300	82.3647
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131314	0.128228	6.8081
Switzerland	Franc	0.681393	0.665380	35.3277
Canada	Dollar	0.653604	0.638244	33.8869
Singapore	Dollar	0.577101	0.563539	29.9205
Australia	Dollar	0.567853	0.554508	29.4410
Bahrain	Dinar	2.716499	2.652661	140.8404
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.273084	0.266667	14.1584
Brunei	Dollar	0.575480	0.561956	29.8365
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023585	0.023031	1.2228
UAE	Dirham	0.278816	0.272264	14.4556
Korea	Won	0.000839	0.000819	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.976500	51.8463
Argentina	Real	0.284463	0.277778	14.7483
Brazil	Real	0.271276	0.264901	14.0647
Denmark	Kroner	0.134553	0.131391	6.9761
India	Rupee	0.021198	0.020700	1.0990
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269527	0.263193	13.9740
Mexico	New Peso	0.102684	0.100271	5.3238
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498013	0.486310	25.8201
Norway	Kroner	0.135658	0.132470	7.0334
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017431	0.017021	0.9037
South Africa	Rand	0.101493	0.099108	5.2620
Sweden	Kroner	0.109845	0.107264	5.6951
Syria	Pound	0.023168	0.022624	1.2012
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029512	0.028818	1.5301
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000716	0.000699	0.0371

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 20
CITY OF MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN ITEM NO. 6 OF THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO FROM MALE TO FEMALE
LYDIA CORDERO-MERCADO
Plaintiff

-versus- SP. PROC. NO. 02-104518

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Respondent

x- -x

ORDER

The verified Petition filed before this Court by Lydia Cordero Mercado, through her counsel, prays that after due notice and hearing, an Order be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of Manila to correct the birth certificate of CHARITO CORDERO MERCADO, as follows:

xx xx xx

4. SEX
From : Male
To : Female

Finding the aforesaid verified petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same shall be heard by the Court sitting at Room 528, Manila City Hall, on November 14, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila or any person having or claiming any interest under the entries sought to be corrected, may within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition or from the last date of the publication of this Order, file his/her/ their opposition thereto and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

The petitioner is hereby directed to cause the publication of this Order at her expense, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the scheduled date of hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by raffle, pursuant to P.D. 1079.

Furnish copies of the petition and this Order the Office of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Manila.

Likewise, let copies of this Order be furnished petitioner Lydia Cordero Mercado and her counsel, as well as the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court of Manila.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, 10 September 2002.

(Sgd.) MARIVIC T. BALISI-UMALI
Presiding Judge

(PDI - Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2002)

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Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-23

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E-Bidding Date : November 22, 2002 – 9:00 AM

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Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **October 28,2002** at the Accreditation, Bidding & IT Services, Procurement & Contracting Division, Materials Management Department upon payment of **P50.00** per schedule which is non refundable and presentation of **TIN/supplier's number (DCE).**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **November 11, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Oct. 29 & Nov. 7, 2002)

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Telephone Nos. 991-1556, 991-1557

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting accredited suppliers to submit eligibility documents and bids for the supply of uPVC Pipes, Reducers; HDPE Pipes; CLCS Pipes; CI Gate Valves, Tee, Flexible Coupling, Adaptors, Mechanical Cap, Cross; Hydrant Angle Valve; CLAC Steel Pipes, Elbows; Telescopic Valve Extension for the Putik-Boalan Distribution Line Project (Phase I). Bid Documents and Instructions to Bidders are available at the ZCWD Main Office Building, 2/F, Pilar St., Zamboanga City and may be obtained after payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per set. Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Documents, Bids/bid securities is on or before 10:00 a.m., **November 19, 2002** (Tuesday) at the ZCWD main office building at the above address. The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Oct. 29, 2002)

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REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Making idle gov't land productive

By Tessa R. Salazar

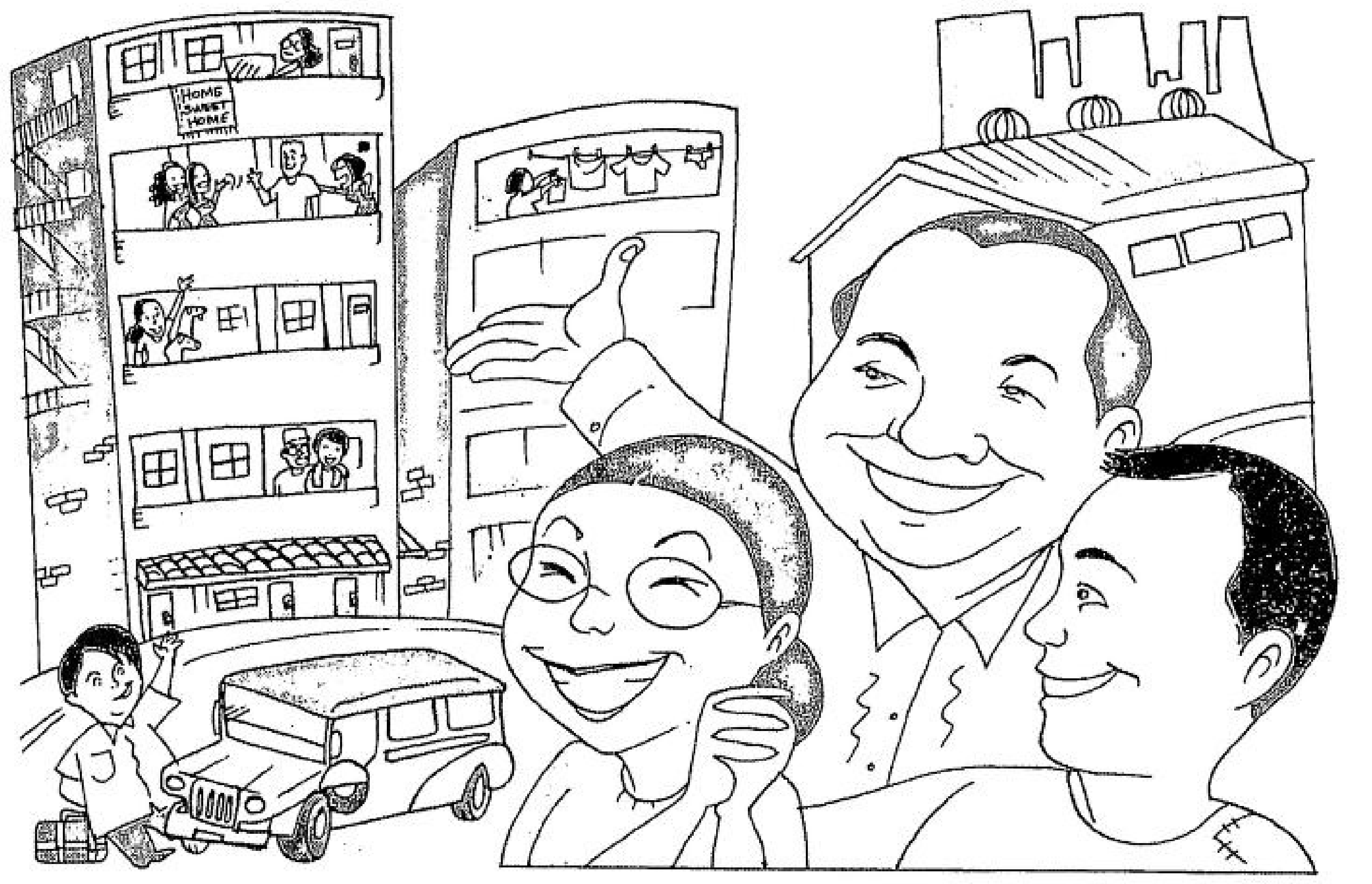


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

MORE than three million people in Metro Manila live in 526 squatter and slum communities, which have come to be known as the "living belts of poverty."

These slums lack the basic services needed for residents to live decently. In 2000, 36 percent of households were dependent on peddled water, and one out of every five poor households still had no toilet at all to speak of.

They die young there, too. Infant mortality is three times higher in the slums than in the rest of the city. The incidence of tuberculosis per 1,000 residents is nine times higher in depressed communities, and diarrhea is twice as common. Malnutrition is also rampant in the slums, where you'll find up to five malnourished kids for every one elsewhere.

This is the urban poor situation the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association showed during an Asian convention of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners and the University of the Philippines' school of environmental planning.

SHDA proposal

In the same convention, the SHDA proposed that idle government land holdings in Metro Manila become part of the association's scheme to build and operate clean, organized medium-rise housing units for poor but employed slum dwellers who cannot afford to buy a house. Five-story residential units would be built on these idle lands, and these units will be offered for rent to the urban poor whose place of work is nearby.

Tenants and the government, according to the scheme, would share in paying the rent. The SHDA said the government could afford to subsidize 50 percent of the rent. If a unit costs P2,000 a month, for example, the tenant pays P1,000 and the government pays the balance of P1,000.

It is estimated that a unit in a five-story walkup building would cost the developer P150,000 to build. This figure is based on efficient construction technologies such as those utilized by Property Holdings Corp.

At this price, SHDA president Jesus B. Atencio reasoned, developers would get a reasonable return on their investments over time—even if rentals cost only P2,000 a month.

At such a rate, Atencio computes, the tenant and the government would pay P240,000 in 10 years—or earnings of P90,000 per unit for the developer. This, while the lots do not incur extra charges since they are government-owned, Atencio added.

Ten years, however, may be too long to wait for P90,000, especially for developers who need revolving income to keep their projects moving. Atencio said there was a solution to that. "Enter another component, which is to secure the income stream. The government has to go to a financing institution or to a bank, and that financing institution will now pay the developer in full immediately," said Atencio.

Then, after operating the building for an agreed time (most likely for 10 years), the building's ownership can then be transferred to the government. The government starts collecting the rental, which starts the income stream for the government. The once idle land has now become productive.

"The government wins. It is able to develop its idle land using private sector resources. It is able to own an asset after a fixed period of time, making that asset revenue generating," Atencio said.

Relief from relocation

The rental scheme is seen to benefit the most families whose incomes are not enough to buy them even the cheapest lending amount from the Pag-Ibig Fund or other government lending systems. This scheme also provides a favorable alternative for families who cannot afford to be relocated outside the cities and away from their members' places of work and study.

Each building will cluster 29 units. Each unit, measured at 30 square meters, has been described as "clean" and "decent."

"The clustering is good because it is a high-density project, while the building itself is a low-density building."

For the SHDA, everybody wins in this scheme: the developers, the slum dwellers who can now afford to live in decent surroundings and the government.

Winners all

Eliminating slum areas by relocating its dwellers to decent units within the city benefits the people not only economically, said Atencio. The health of the urban poor, he stressed, is vastly improved. The health costs, then would decrease. Basic services such as water distribution and garbage collection can become organized. Children can set their minds on their studies and playtime, and not be hampered by an unsanitary environment.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is also part of the scheme. It will be tasked to organize the community and guide it in the creation of other livelihood schemes, team building and values formation.

In such a favorable environment, the family can go about raising its members properly. In 10 years of living in such a medium-rise building, the children would have already graduated and gone on to fend for themselves, while the family income tends to rise. When the time comes the family is financially able to buy its own house, and the unit becomes available for occupancy. The next family moves in to continue the revenue stream for the government and the cycle of urban revitalization.

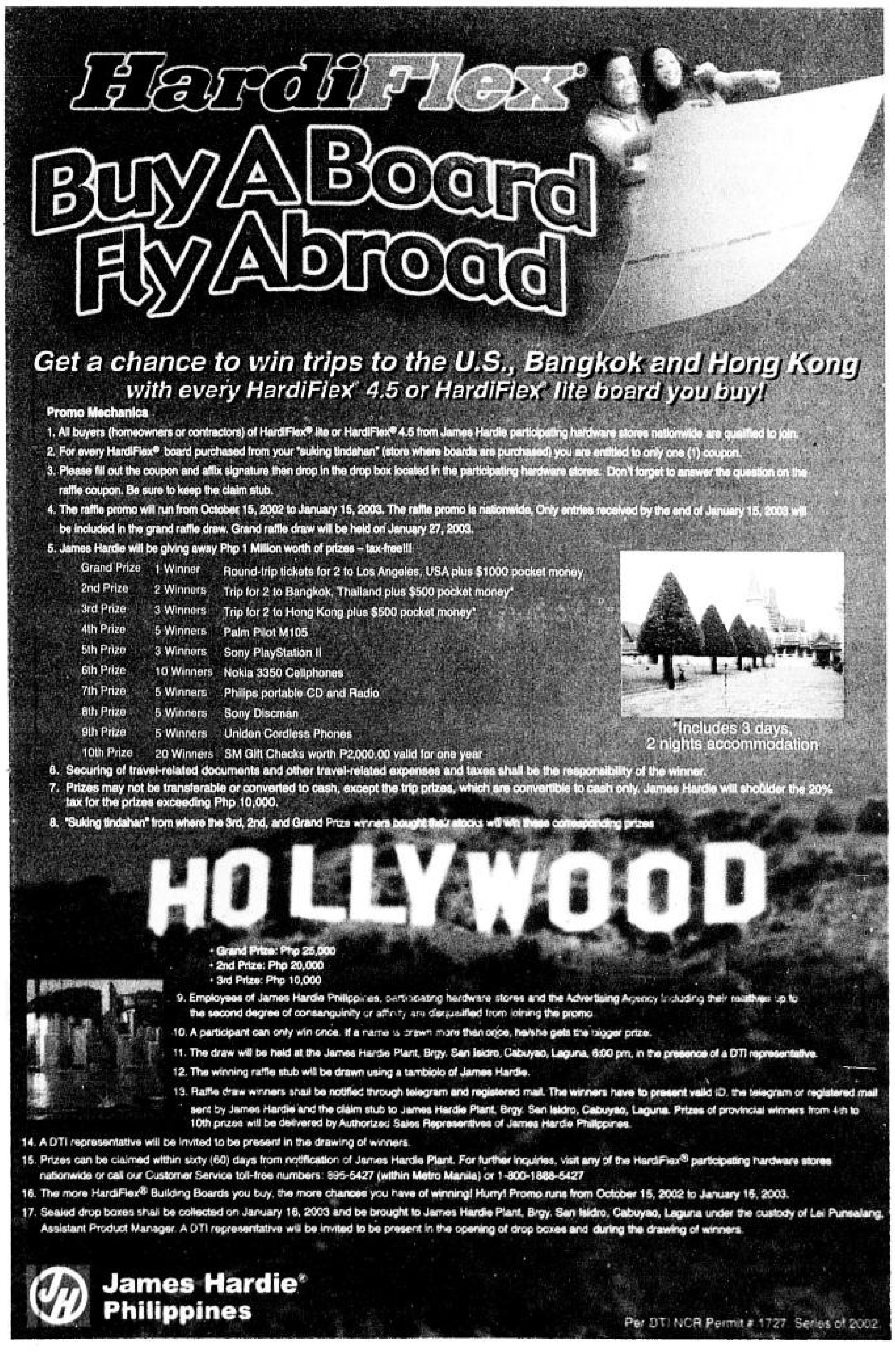
Rentals, graduation

Compared with typical house rental rates, the scheme planned by the SHDA stands out. Atencio noted that cheaper housing rental rates in Makati run between P7,000 and P8,000. Prices for a typical house in the fringes of the city starts at P700,000. These places could be in Novaliches, Antipolo, Taytay or Bulacan.

The SHDA stressed an inherent advantage of its scheme: it minimizes the daily commute, reducing transportation time and man-hours wasted being stuck in traffic.

"One characteristic of the employed urban poor is that he or she is underemployed. Their (employment is also unstable)—sometimes they have jobs, sometimes they don't. And a lot of them work in Makati as sales people, janitors, messengers and vendors," said Atencio.

The medium-rise rental units can also be seen as "temporary holding centers." In the families' search for a better life, they can already start living in it.



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*Includes 3 days, 2 nights accommodation

6. Securing of travel-related documents and other travel-related expenses and taxes shall be the responsibility of the winner.
7. Prizes may not be transferable or converted to cash, except the trip prizes, which are convertible to cash only. James Hardie will shoulder the 20% tax for the prizes exceeding Php 10,000.
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- Grand Prize: Php 25,000
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- 3rd Prize: Php 10,000

9. Employees of James Hardie Philippines, participating hardware stores and the Advertising Agency including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
10. A participant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize.
11. The draw will be held at the James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna, 6:00 pm, in the presence of a DTI representative.
12. The winning raffle stub will be drawn using a tambiolo of James Hardie.
13. Raffle draw winners shall be notified through telegram and registered mail. The winners have to present valid ID, the telegram or registered mail sent by James Hardie and the claim stub to James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna. Prizes of provincial winners from 4th to 10th prizes will be delivered by Authorized Sales Representives of James Hardie Philippines.
14. A DTI representative will be invited to be present in the drawing of winners.
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CEBU RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

No fuss living, frills and forest of your own

STA. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. offers a residential estate with a forest view for its latest project in Perrelos, Carcar—Glen Rose Residential Estates.

The developer, and its marketing network Orchard Property Marketing Corp. gave its first-list residents a head start on their investment to appreciate upon signing up. The 72- and 12- square meter lots are initially offered lower than the actual value to guarantee outright value appreciation. Low monthly, amortization and down payments are affordable in the first place.

Very consistent

"We're very consistent with the facilities and amenities we provide residents but were also very consistent in looking for that piece de resistance per locale—usually picturesque views and vegetation we can 'frame' or hype to the residents' advantage. For Glen Rose, we're showcasing a whole forest," reveals Exequiel Robles, Sta. Lucia president and chief executive officer.

Of the total 82,177-square-meter Glen Rose spread, a full hectare is dedicated to a forest nature park that's secure and people-friendly—the more to enjoy trekking through the woodlands for a novel morning exercise, camping out with friends, or for kids to play the imagination game—slaying dragons or mimicking jungle warfare. Coming in from the manicured, tended landscape of the community, it's easier for residents to imagine going to another world to refresh their spirit of adventure.

Typical of the master-planned communities and development projects the premiere realty firm is known for, Glen Rose is just as self-contained. It has ample security, a multi-purpose clubhouse for commercial and leisurely pursuits, swimming pool, open basketball and tennis courts, underground storm and drainage system, well-paved road works, centralized water system with overhead tank and deep well, complete electrical facilities and landscaped zones from entrance gate and guardhouse to meandering paths and parks. The housing units rate first-class in fixtures and finishes

Most favorable

Glen Rose is also most favorable for families needing a place of calm but without severing their need to feel connected with the outside world, hence the convenience of being located on the main highway so one could take a short drive to Gaisano, Ayala Center-Cebu, and SM malls; the University of San Jose Recolletos among other schools; hospitals, the Carcar Public Market; and Carcar Terminal. By 2004, progressive Carcar opens up to greater accessibility—the proposed LRT passing through Danao, Northern Cebu and Lapu-Lapu City has the town on its sights, being a major eco-tourism destination that even now attracts droves of visitors for its pristine coastal areas of white sand and blue waters, natural springs, not to mention the lush vegetation. There's also the Cebu South Coastal Road from Inayawan Provincial Road to the northern limit of an ongoing reclamation project for a more convenient drive to and from Carcar, slated to finish in July 2002.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Frills bit

As for the frills bit, Carcar town's historic old houses dating more than a century with its breathtaking wood latticework and romantic verandas literally provide much of it. Antiques within and graceful iron and stonework without invite exploration, be it for pure enjoyment of the mastery of the colonial ages and the homes each brought forth or to imagine life in a different era.

Glen Rose offers all the no-fuss living, just frills and own forest view. Robles says after all, Glen Rose is intended as "home" for the self-made Cebuanos.

INDUSTRY-GOV'T ALLIANCE

Home building good news cited

By Vicente B. Foz
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE PRIVATE industry-government partnership in the housing program was further affirmed as a package of housing program breakthroughs was unfolded in the recent 2002 National Convention of the Chamber Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) in Baguio City, according to Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. yesterday.

The three-day convention highlighted what could only be the outcome of a cooperative enterprise, he stressed.

Serious exercise

Said Dulalia: "It took months of backroom hustles, dialogues and consultations on substance and form, policy and procedure. For beyond discussing program contents and schedule, it was a serious exercise in reforming and propelling the housing program."

The Creba president said:"Top government honcho President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo got herself so much involved she decided it was much better pencil-pushing with policy makers than spending time in Baguio and delivering a speech. Never mind that it was a gathering of industry players and state decision makers. Of course, the President apologized for missing the company of Creba and industry friends. Just the same, Her Excellency's presence was still felt via an important message on videotape and a face on wide screen.

Crucial policy responses

The President announced "crucial policy responses" to industry's advocacy for what she herself described as "a conducive environment for home building."

He recalled Sen. Manuel B.Villar Jr. in effect telling the industry: "Go for it, you and the homeless deserve the break." Secretary Michael T. Defensor, HUDCC chair, said that because of Creba's candor, HUDCC views Creba as good policy sounding board. "Can this policy be defended in a CREBA forum?" has become an automatic yardstick we attach to every policy we make," he said.

The program was put together by Creba officers led by Dulalia; Florante C. Ofrecio, overall convention chair; HUDCC led by Undersecretary Armando C. de Castro, HUDCC secretary-general and overall convention co-chair; CREBA board chair, lawyer Manny Serrano, and many others.

Breakthroughs

True to its theme "Alliances and Unity: Key to Economic Recovery," the convention witnessed industry-government breakthroughs for building homes. Thus:

- The industry, represented by Creba, Builders Alliance Towards Action (Bata), National Real Estate Association (NREA), Organization of Socialized Housing Developers Association of the Philippies (Oshdap) and Women in Shelter and Environment (WISE), presented a formal resolution pledging to deliver an initial 227,000 socialized and economic housing units to support the housing program in the next few months.
- The Creba Social Housing Foundation and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. signed a memorandum of agreement under which the foundation will seek accreditation as an originator under the Community Mortgage Program to help urban poor communities and provide modern technology to speed up house construction and delivery.
- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has increased its loan collateral value for housing accounts of banks to 80-90 percent of the loan ratio, with the possibility of increasing the rediscount window to P2 million.

Similarly, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) will increase its loan-to-collateral value for housing accounts under the buy-back agreement with developers. Thus for loans over P180,000 but not more than P500,000, the loan-to-collateral value will be increased from 90 percent to 100 percent; for over P500,000 up to P1 million loans, the value will be adjusted from 90 percent to 100 percent; and loans of more than P1 million but not more than P2 million, the value will be increased from 70 percent to 90 percent. Thus, borrowers will no longer shell out equity for loans up to P500,000, while for loans of more than P1 million, the equity will be reduced by P50,000 to P200,000.

- Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) has reduced to only 19 signatures from a previous of 40 for the normal regular loan window, while the takeout with a buy-back guarantee window takes only seven days.
- Government Service Insurance System and Pag-Ibig Fund have lowered their interest rates to make amortization payments more affordable for homebuyers. GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia announced the institution's Bahay Ko Program takeout facility is now open to Creba member-developers to enable more government employees to acquire their homes. Some P24 billion will be available in the next three years.
- Secretary Defensor and Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Romero FS. Quimbo announced the institution will increase its housing fund allocation from P20 billion to P30 billion of its investment portfolio for 2003.
- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is conveying its foreclosed real estate assets of 11,900,000 square meters appraised at P7.1 billion to the Department of Finance or possibly to the Housing Guaranty Corp. to increase its guaranty capacity.
- Medium-rise building projects as condos for the masses will be pursued by Pag-Ibig Fund in cities where land is scarce and expensive. MRB construction in public lands will be financed by revolving loan facilities of the National Development Co. and the Land Bank of the Philippines which will chip in P500 million. These funds may be tapped as equity in joint ventures with developers.
- The Department of Agrarian Reform has agreed to make available 10,000 hectares of land for housing annually, but Creba is pushing for a long-term goal of 200,000 hectares for housing and urban development for the next 20 years to wipe out homelessness. A memorandum of agreement providing for the establishment of a technical working group to strive to harmonize housing and agrarian reform composed of industry and DAR representatives will soon be finalized and signed by industry representatives and DAR.
- In November, Creba will launch the Creba-USA chapters and other international chapters to help developers market their housing and other projects among Filipino expatriates and retired foreigners as a new front for the housing and building industry. Creba-USA will serve as the marketing and sales arm of Creba and its members in the US. Creba chapters will also be established in Canada, Europe and Asia.

DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Interior Secretary Joey Lina expressed their support of the housing industry's efforts to push the housing program in tandem with the government sector. Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, chair, House committee on housing, spoke on the chamber's housing agenda, while Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, discussed developments on the bill seeking to establish the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which he principally authored and the chamber passed. He called on Creba to lobby in the Senate to help ensure its approval in Congress.

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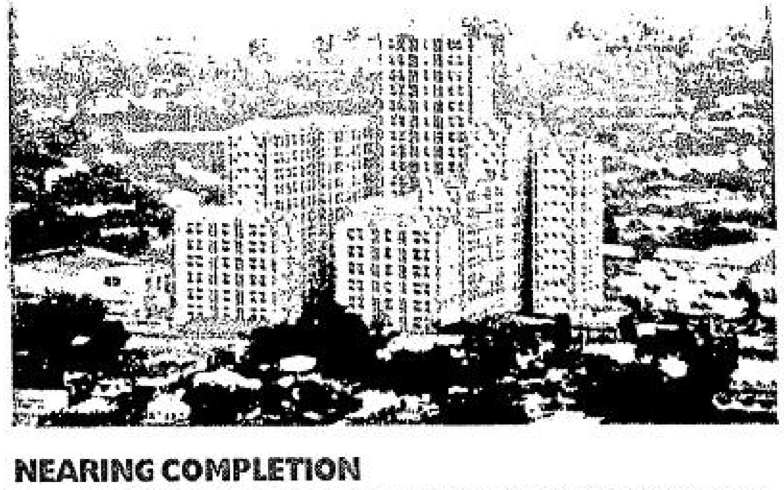


NEARING COMPLETION
Greenhills Garden Square, a nine-cluster residential development of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. on Col. Boni Serrano Avenue (formerly Santolan) in Quezon City has reached the 85 percent completion mark. Clusters 1 to 3 are undergoing interior finishing works while painting and architectural works including the installation of partitions, lofts and stairs are under way for Clusters 4 to 9. The multipurpose clubhouse building is structurally complete and the resort-style swimming and wading pools are completed.

Trends in hotel accommodation services bared

BRINGING to reality the vision of "ultimate comfort and convenience," The Bellevue Manila has put together a luxury bedroom filled with the latest styles, comfort and a broad range of commodities suited to the needs of the modern client

NEW competition, more sophisticated clientele and changing lifestyles are some key factors which have resulted in new trends in hotel accommodation services.

According to Jesse Chevrez, general manager of The Bellevue Manila, the newest hotel in the Alabang area, "What used to be add-on services are now offered as part of the basic accommodation services of a hotel. This is our response to the changing needs of a more sophisticated clientele."

Added benefits, features

Aside from the usual hotel room features, most hotels now have added many more benefits to its standard amenities. These basic features now include: high-tech facilities such as broadband Internet access, controlled access to the guest floors with electronic key cards, IDD, cable television with pay-per-view movies. More and more hotels now provide shuttle services to the nearby business districts, and other services that will make a hotel stay so much more convenient for a hotel guest.

Aside from modern communications and telecommunications facilities, hotels now make available modern gym equipment and services, spa treatments, health clubs, jacuzzis and even infinity pools. The Bellevue Manila, for example, is one such hotel that is designed to "offer the ultimate comfort and convenience," according to architects Esteban Tan and Gavin Tan of Esteban Tan and Associates.

The 222-room hotel was designed with four room types to choose from: studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom suite. Each room type is equipped with broadband Internet access, fax point, telephone lines with direct inwarding capability and IDD, kitchenette for studios and full kitchen for suites.

Other new features include "an authentic Asian restaurant and a dedicated entertainment center on the 20th floor featuring a music lounge, main bar, game room, billiards and wide video screens for viewing international and local sports events," added Johannes Jahns of Jahns Consulting, hotel consultant.

Location trends

As to location, the thriving commercial and tourism industries in the areas south of Metro Manila, starting from the Alabang-Muntinlupa area and extending all the way to the Calabarzon, are seeing the rise of more service-oriented condotels and hotels.

The newest of this is The Bellevue Manila located in the Northgate Cyberzone of the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. According to Chevrez, The Bellevue Manila "is the first hotel with international standards in the area." The hotel is expected to open in November.

BOOTH OPENING

Vazbuilt Building Systems Corp. (Vazbuilt), the country's pioneer provider of modular houses, opened its third booth recently at the SM City North Edsa. This is in response to the public's enthusiastic reaction to its mall presence. The other booths are at SM Southmall, which opened early September, and SM Megamall, which started operations last March. Vazbuilt launched its mall booths to make its services—like its one-stop housing shop—more accessible to the public.

Sta. Lucia Realty granted ECC for golf course

PREMIERE golf course and residential developer Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. has received an official certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources granting the developer an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for The Pinewoods Golf and Country Club at Barangay Asin, Baguio City and Poblacion, Tuba, Benguet.

In response to the ECC clearance, Sta. Lucia Realty is poised to proceed with the development of this championship 18-hole high-altitude golf course upon securing all the necessary permits and licenses.

Designed by the renowned master golfer Gary Player, The Pinewoods Golf Course will highlight the spectacular natural features of the site and showcase the grand highland vistas of the Cordilleras.

2 distinct ridges

Slated to be built on two very distinct ridges, the golf course runs into three different levels. Considering an overall elevation difference of 210 meters between the highest and the lowest point on the golf course, there is hardly any major drop in elevation since the steep topography is confined largely to the two distinct ridges.

The overall length of the golf course, at 1600 yards, suggests that the golf course will play relatively short. However, due to the nature of the terrain, certain holes will play substantially longer than the yardage suggests.

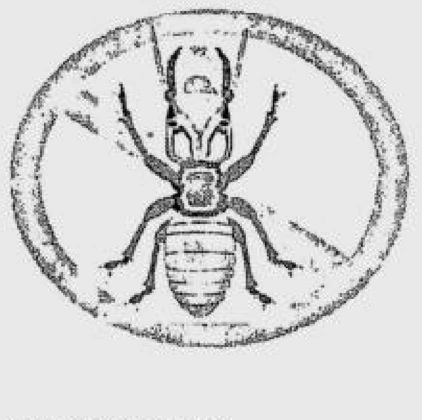
The golf course will be par 70 and has been designed to be an eminently playable golf course for all levels of golfers providing a challenge to both the scratch golfer and the high handicapper. The golf course will feature a very distinctive bunkering style to add character and beauty as well as assist the golfer with depth perception and directional requirements.

Golf clubhouse

Aside from the spectacular golf course, the Pinewoods Golf & Country Club will boast of an opulent American colonial-inspired golf clubhouse complete with a grand lobby area, golfer's bar and restaurant, lockers and shower rooms, pro-shop, karaoke bar, coffee shop, fine-dining restaurants, function rooms and a business center. There will be recreational facilities like a covered swimming pool, basketball court and tennis courts, bowling and billiards, pingpong, video arcade and a children's play area.

In compliance with the project's environmental impact assessment, Sta. Lucia Realty will take care in ensuring that the development will follow all the requirements stipulated to safeguard the environmental integrity of the site.

Termite busting enters a new era



DIDI Gonzalez quips that he is the son "who did not have enough sense to move into another field" and proceeds to talk about the pleasures and pitfalls of running the five-decade-old pest control family business, the antitermite technology that is taking the industry by storm, and what he thinks of opposing political factions that have taken to calling each other *anay*.

Gonzalez, fourth child of agronomist Justo Gonzalez Jr. and former assistant agriculture secretary and former UP Regent Nelia Gonzalez, is at the helm of Pest Control Services Inc., a company built by his father in 1955. He majored in entomology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, took a specialized training in England and then earned a Master of Management degree from the Asian Institute of Management.

Chemical misuse

He remembers the days when pest control operators here and abroad would use arsenic and chlordane to protect structures for a very long time, which eventually led to chemical misuse by unsuspecting and unscrupulous individuals. "People used these termiticides because they were really very effective. With chlordane, once you put it in the soil, it's there for good. But precisely because the chemical has a residual effect that lasts for many decades, it also caused health troubles and environmental damage."

Arsenic was banned in the '70s, along with other organic pollutants while chlordane was eventually pulled out of the shelves in 1998. For a long time, pest control people had no choice but to resort to the spray-and-pray technique: they relied on not-so-reliable chemicals to try to exterminate termites and in the process, drilled many holes through walls and floors to keep foraging termites at bay.

"Back then, it was mostly educated guesswork," recalls Gonzalez. "There was a gap in terms of method and technology, and client callbacks were very frequent." At this point, recognizing the limitations of the business, Gonzalez decided to focus more on the "nontermite" side of the corporation.

Meantime in the mid-'90s, the pest control industry in the US experienced a breakthrough. Dow AgroSciences developed Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System which takes advantage of natural termite behavior so technicians could now get subterranean termites where they live.

3 steps

Sentricon claims total colony elimination since it works like a treatment method and a warning device. The antitermite technology does the job in three steps: First, a highly trained and specially authorized pest management professionals—an authorized operator (AO) will place monitoring stations in the soil around the sites, checking these regularly for signs of termite activity.

Next, as soon as termites begin feeding in the station, AO technicians will replace the monitoring unit with a Baitube device that contains termite bait (the substance prevents them from molting, so that they are unable to grow, causing them to die). The termites will unsuspectingly summon their nest mates to the site by leaving special scent trails that lead to the bait. Finally, once the colony is eliminated, the bait will be replaced with new monitoring devices which the technician will inspect closely and regularly for renewed termite activity.

Sentricon entered the local scene in 1999 and to date, many thousands of homes and properties across Metro Manila and Cebu are being protected against termites. According to Gonzalez, the entry of Sentricon in the field meant that pest control operators and home/property owners won't have to lose sleep worrying since the technology allows for the outcome to be predicted with a higher degree of certainty.

It is also helping to professionalize the industry: "It helps that everybody is on the same page. Technicians don't have to pluck answers from the air and rationalize the client's infestation problem. Clients are happy because they can actually observe that the technology works. So the relationship is not adversarial," he explains.

Safety consciousness

He notes that today, people are becoming more and more conscious of safety issues. "In the Philippines, Sentricon is one of the few that received fast-track registration from the Fertilizers and Pesticides Authority (FPA) because it was found to have no ill effect on the ecosystem and its toxicological studies show that it will never affect humans," says Gonzalez. It was awarded by the Clinton administration the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe.

The bait material, hexaflumuron, is also the first pest control product in the US to receive fast-track registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new Reduced Pesticide Risk category. Sentricon is odorless and nondisruptive which makes it especially suited for homes, food establishments, hospitals, schools, warehouses and museums. The technology is being used to protect the White House, the Statue of Liberty and some Philippine historical sites.

Gonzalez is an active player in the industry (he was president of three pest control associations in the country) having designed and conducted certificate courses that are being used in FPA licensing and accreditation seminars. He hints at exploring a new niche in the area of home and garden care and shares that as soon as he completes the training module, he will start training prospective practitioners.

Exhorting his colleagues to keep abreast of industry developments, Gonzalez says that clients are more knowledgeable now because they have easy access to the Internet so their expectations have gone high as well. He advises homeowners with termite troubles to contact pestcon firms that are registered with the FPA, while gently reminding clients that "there is a price associated with the quality of service that these pest control operators provide. Think value for money."

Married to Portia Flor and father of three grown-up kids, Gonzalez thanks the government camp and its detractors for using the "anay analogy" to criticize each other because in a way, it calls attention to a serious problem that plagues practically every Filipino home. "We get more calls because of that. People think, yes, termites do destroy homes. Exposure of that sort is always welcome," he concludes.

For termite busting please call (632) 772-5006, or visit the website: www.sentricon.com. Or call Pestcon Best Management and General Services at (632) 374-6479.

TV show sees big demand for housing

"TAHANANG Pinoy," a magazine TV show geared toward a crossover market that spans the A-D bracket, recently aired its maiden episode. This 30-minute program is being shown every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on ABC 5.

Tahanang Pinoy recognizes the need of almost every Filipino to find and acquire his/her "dream house." As such the show's main goal is to provide information as to what options are available. To make the show more interesting and informative, the format of the TV show will contain the following segments:

- Housing communities—basic classification of housing projects:
  - Socialized or low-cost housing provides information for the so-called *"masa"* which by the way is becoming more and more critical
  - Medium-cost housing caters to the curiosity of middle-income families planning to invest their hard-earned money on real estate
  - High-end or luxury housing aims to present options for the very rich and "can afford" in exclusive villages and subdivisions
- Home and land development segment gives options and basic information for land development, land preparation to construction, materials for the space, new construction technology and how it will fit the budget of the buyer.
- Interior and design is the segment on how to enhance the type of house—simple landscaping, homemade interior decor, simple lighting or what pieces of furniture will suit well with your space
- Do-it-yourself home improvement for weekend carpenters is a segment on how to help homeowners save money by repairing or "improving" their house by themselves
- Financing your dream home gives options on how and where to get loans, flexible payment terms, where and how to secure necessary permits and documents to purchase the house
- Movers and shakers of the industry is the segment that gives viewers an intimate peek at the personal space of famous people or provides interviews of VIP personalities related to the industry.

The huge demand for housing is there and Tahanang Pinoy aims to help fill that gap by providing a TV show like this.

CONTRACRORS APPOINTMENT

Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. (KPP) appoints its contractors for the construction of Palmdale Heights, a 7.6-hectare self-contained residential community in Pasig City. Seated from right are KPP senior vice president for development Sin Wai Meng, KPP executive vice president Lawrence Peh, Hillmarc president Efren Canlas and TCGI engineer Joey Ortega. Standing from right are Hillmarc area manager Bob Henson, KPP investment manager Juan Antonio Gatuslao, Voltage president Antonio Que, Sincere president Alberto Cabael and KPP project manager Arthur Magtibay.

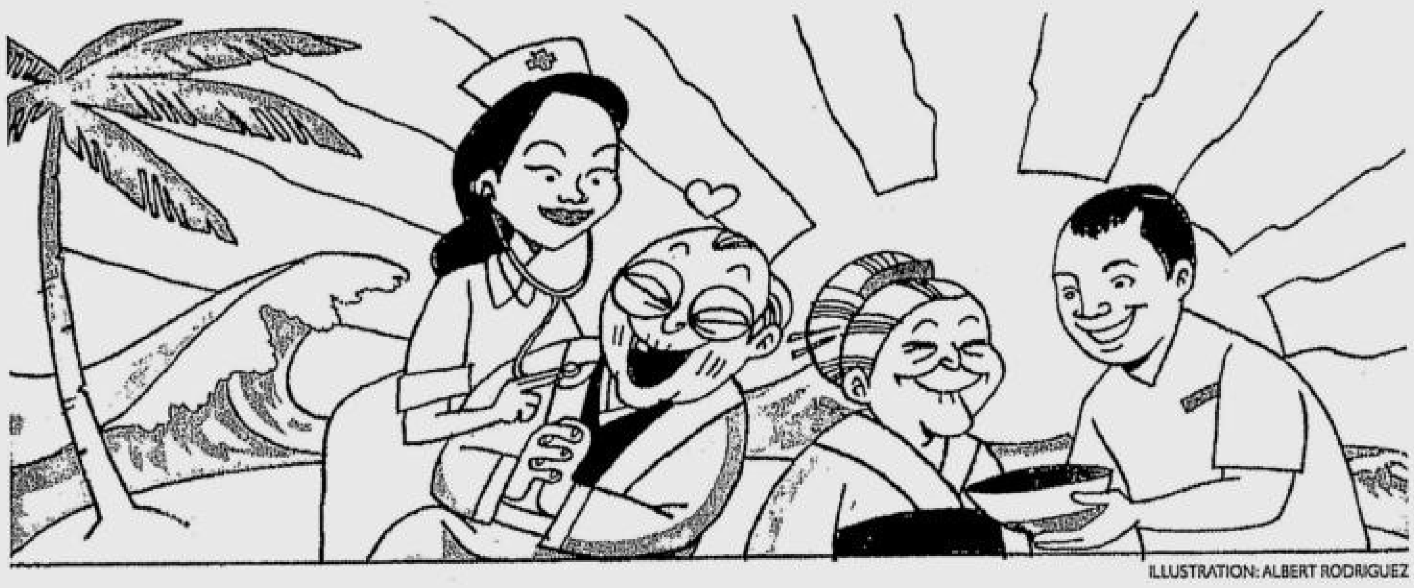


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Japanese interested in RP as retirees' haven

MANY Japanese retirees are interested in considering the Philippines as a possible retirement haven because of its benign tropical climate, advanced and compassionate health care and attractive incentives provided by the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority.

This was among the impressions gathered by a PLRA sales mission that has been in Japan since Oct. 19 to make its pitch to Japanese citizens, especially the retirees, that they could spend the best years of their lives in Philippine tourism and retirement resorts, complete with care-giving amenities and other modern facilities for relaxation and comfort for the aged in a tropical setting.

The PLRA mission, headed by chair Antonio Leviste, is being assisted by the Long Stay Foundation of Tokyo in its sales campaign. Long Stay maintains a gerontology center and operates various services for Japanese senior citizens, fondly called "Silver Citizens."

"With your pensions [ranging from $3,000 to $5,000 monthly], you can live like emperors and empresses in the Philippines. With loving care and with the warm and benign climate of the Philippines, a friendly and compassionate people, you will enjoy and extend your longevity to a ripe old age," Leviste told the Japanese retirees.

With Japan becoming an ageing society because of a low birth rate and long life expectancy, the Japanese are becoming increasingly concerned about enjoying an active and healthful life in retirement.

"If you come to the Philippines, there will be no lack of Filipinos and Filipinas who will give you loving care as if you are members of their own families because we Filipinos are noted all over the world for our culture of hospitality and loving care," Leviste told the Japanese senior citizens.

The PLRA mission was badgered with many questions about its Investor Retirees Residents Visa (IR2V) that grants privileges, such as permanent residents status and multiple entry, to foreign retirees in the Philippines.

Leviste met with Yutaka Yamauchi, the managing director of Long Stay Foundation, to finalize arrangements for the travel to the Philippines of Japan's Silver Citizens.

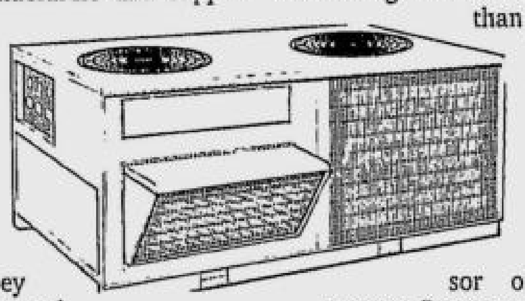
"We have an ageing society in Japan. Data released by the Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry show that the life expectancy of Japanese men now stands at 78 years, while that of the Japanese women is 85 years," said Yamauchi.

Know how to choose the right air-conditioner

AIR-CONDITIONERS have become valuable for comfortable and productive living, so much so that practically every home and business establishment nowadays have one.

If you still don't own one and are planning to get one for your home or office, it would be to your best interest if you familiarize yourself first on how air-conditioners work, and which guidelines to follow so you can maximize the full potential of your unit.

Here are a few pointers from Trane Philippines, one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of cooling systems.



Air-conditioners treat and control the air temperature, humidity and cleanliness. They transfer heat and humidity from one space into another. At the heart of every unit is a compressor, a pump that circulates through the cooling system. This refrigerant acts as a medium that extracts heat from one space and spreads it into another.

An air conditioner keeps you in cool comfort by circulating cold, dry and clean air through the room. Remember that the optimal temperature should be in the range of 24 degrees Celsius with the relative humidity ranging between 55 and 65 percent.

There are mainly two types of air-conditioners—the window unit and the split system.

A window unit is a self-contained packaged air-conditioner whose components are housed within the unit. It is installed through an opening in the wall with no interpiping required.

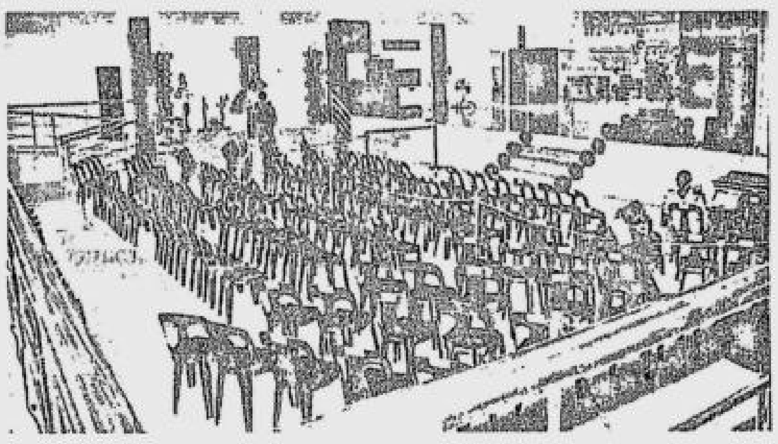
A single split unit is composed of two parts that make up a system air conditioner. These are the outdoor or air-cooled condensing unit (Accu) and the indoor or fan coil unit (FCU). The Accu consists of a compressor and a heat rejecting condenser coil. The FCU is a cooling coil that cools the room. Interconnecting piping between these two components is required to run the system.

A multisplit unit consists of one condensing unit connected to more than one fan coil unit, giving it the ability to cool more than just one room. The Accu can either be a single compressor or multicompressor. Because of the design, single split units and multisplit units are quieter than windows units.

Before you choose which air- conditioning system suits you, you first need to:

- Decide on the areas that require air-conditioning.
- Have an aircon specialist determine the cooling capacity required.
- Determine the types of air-conditioners that you want.
- Consider your budget.

Trane has a wide variety of air-conditioners and cooling systems to match your every need. It boasts of state-of-the-art equipment that have become industry benchmarks. Moreover, each Trane product is backed by qualified after-sales service so you can be assured that your Trane air-conditioner will give you years of uninterrupted service.



STARMALL opens trade hall.

Starmall trade hall now open

FROM A MALL to a one-stop bargain and business center, Starmall on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa continues its expansion to meet the growing demand of shoppers and businessmen in Metro Manila.

One of its major developments is the conversion of one of its theaters into the Starmall Trade Hall—a 600-square-meter exhibit and commerce area that is ideal for trade fairs, exhibits and even weekend events. And because Starmall caters to all, exhibitors are sure to be able to hit their target market.

The mall is located at the corner of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa virtually guaranteeing high pedestrian traffic. It also has direct access to the MRT.

Buses plying the Edsa route as well as jeeps plying along Shaw Boulevard make the mall one of their main stops.

Available hall amenities for those planning to rent the Starmall Trade Hall include: centralized air-conditioning for the event duration, general overhead lighting, cleaning and security in the mall area, billboard announcement for the event schedule together with advertising display areas within the mall.

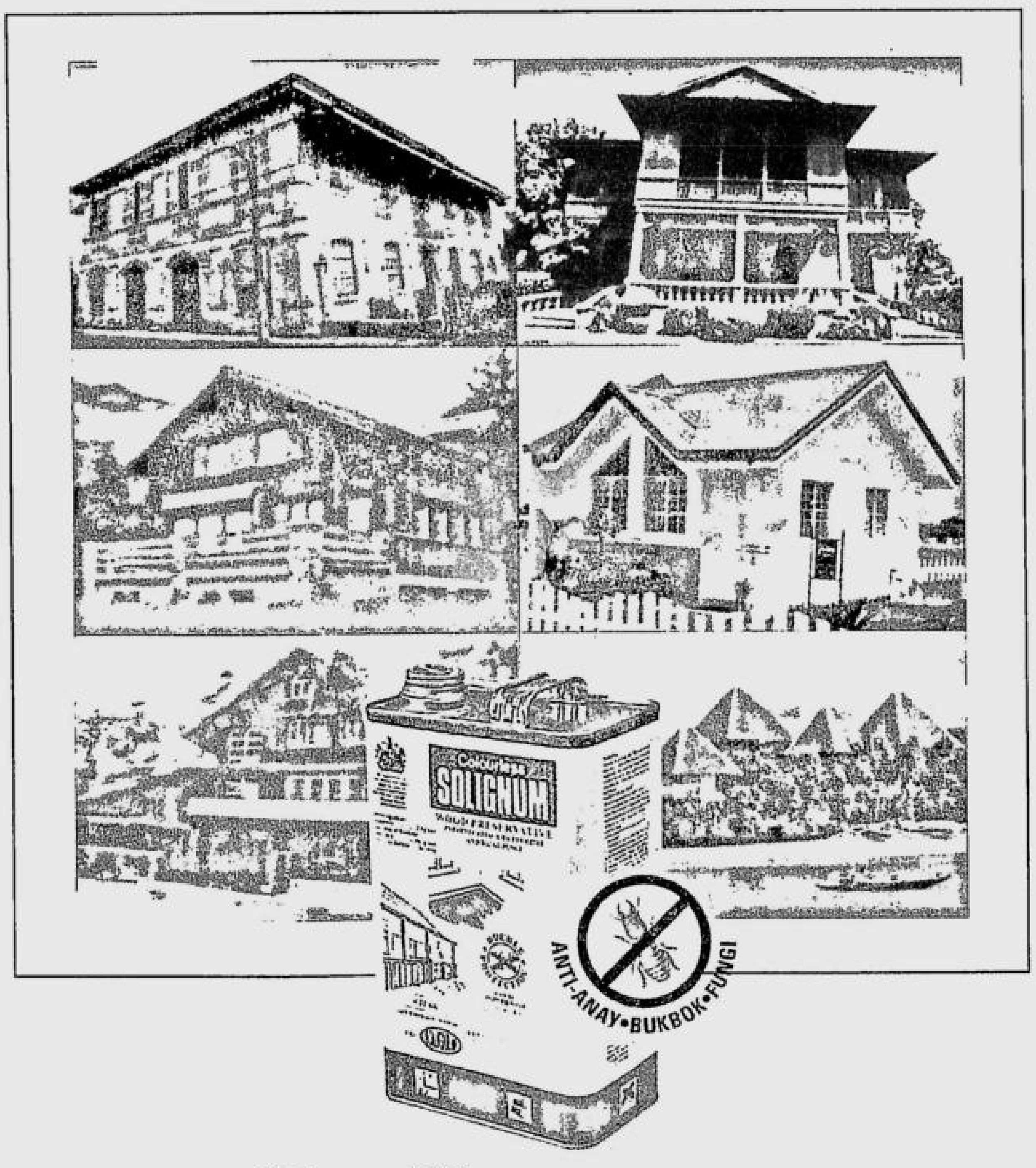
A section of the trade hall can be set aside as a reception area, depending on how much space is available after the area to be rented has been determined.

With the shopping convenience of the mall and its accessibility to various forms of transportation, the Starmall Trade Hall is the best choice to hold that trade show or weekend event. For inquiries, call up Mara at 723-8284.

Starmall is part of the Star Group of Malls, which includes Metropolis Star in Alabang and MStar in Las Piñas.

GROUNDBREAKING RITE
The Fort Strip groundbreaking ceremony at the Bonifacio Global City fast tracks construction of a two-story complex of restaurants, retail and commercial establishments in an open-air, plaza setting. The complex operated and developed by Le Masora Manila will be integrated into the current Fort Square commercial center. From left are FBOC senior vice president for commercial operations Vicente Tinsay III, Le Masora directors Sonny Reyes, Jose Chung, Monique Chung and Le Masora Manila chief operating officer Maritess Viado-Cruz.

At home all over the Philippines for over 50 years.



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E-mail: adjusupbekova@adb.org or fpalabrica@adb.org

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICIAL AND/OR PERSONAL LAUNDRY SERVICES
(ADB/OAS-2002/042-043)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of official and/or personal laundry services.
2. The application for prequalification may be made for the provision of either official laundry services only, personal laundry services only, or both services.
3. The successful bidder will be contracted for an initial period of two years from the commencement date of the contract, extendible up to a maximum duration of five years.
4. To be qualified to submit a bid, the bidder must meet the following criteria:
    (i) Should have independent legal existence as a validly registered company, or a joint venture partnership (under joint and several liability), for at least 5 years with trade specialization in providing laundry services and dry-cleaning services to large groups or companies;
    (ii) Have minimum of 5 current and previous clients (embassies, hotels, international/multinational organizations, etc.);
    (iii) Capable of establishing laundry and dry cleaning outlet and deploying qualified personnel that will cater to requirements of ADB personal laundry services; and
    (iv) Should have generally sound financial and credit position with average annual revenues of at least P5 million over the last three years.
5. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **28 October to 4 November 2002**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos Two Hundred (P200.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.
6. Last day of submission of application for prequalification is **12 November 2002.**
7. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **29 November to 4 December 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00) payable in cash or check to ADB.
8. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification without incurring any liability or any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds for ADB's action.

Director
General Services Division
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Oct. 28 & 29, 2002)

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

POSITION TITLE: Social Development Specialist (Participation)

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong operational experience in community-driven development (CDD), social accountability and civic engagement. The position will be a fixed-term appointment for three years, with a one year probation. It will be subject to local recruitment and offers an opportunity to work on development challenges facing the Philippines in a global development organization. Based in Manila, the selected candidate is expected to travel frequently within the country.

She/He will report to the Sector Coordinator, Environment and Social Development Unit, WBOM, and would have the following **major duties and responsibilities.**

- **Mainstreaming Stakeholder Participation.** Implement and empowerment objective of the Country Assistance Strategy by mainstreaming participation, especially of the poor and civil society, in Bank-financed projects, analytical work and policy dialogue; screen projects in the pipeline to ensure that participatory approaches are integrated in design of investment operations; track ongoing projects to ensure that participatory approaches are being implemented; and, mobilize and manage resources for work on CDD, social accountability and civic engagement.
- **Supporting Project Development and Implementation.** Participate in cross-sectoral task teams to design, supervise and evaluate projects which pay attention to social dimensions of development; assist task teams in drafting terms of reference for CDD, social accountability and civic engagement activities, and supervise implementation of these activities; and, advise task teams in identifying and working with appropriate civil society partners for project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Participation.** Document and/or disseminate good practices; conduct knowledge management activities to enhance civil society's understanding of the Bank's operations and policies; and design and support capacity building efforts for development partners.

Selection Criteria:

- Master's degree or higher in anthropology, sociology or other relevant social science.
- Strong operational background and analytical skills, with at least 7 years of relevant professional experience. Hands-on work in designing, managing and evaluating CDD projects is desirable.
- Working knowledge of relevant policies, procedures, practices and programs in the Philippines.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English and Tagalog, and proficient computer skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams.
- Proven ability to deal effectively with development partners.
- Previous work experience with donor agencies is desirable.

Please send your application letter, with a cirriculum vitaé, containing of work experience, academic records, a recent photograph, references (at least three names with full contact details) **not later than November 11, 2002. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to:**

The Resource Management Officer
Box 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor Building B, SM Megamall
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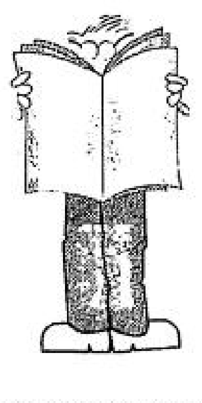

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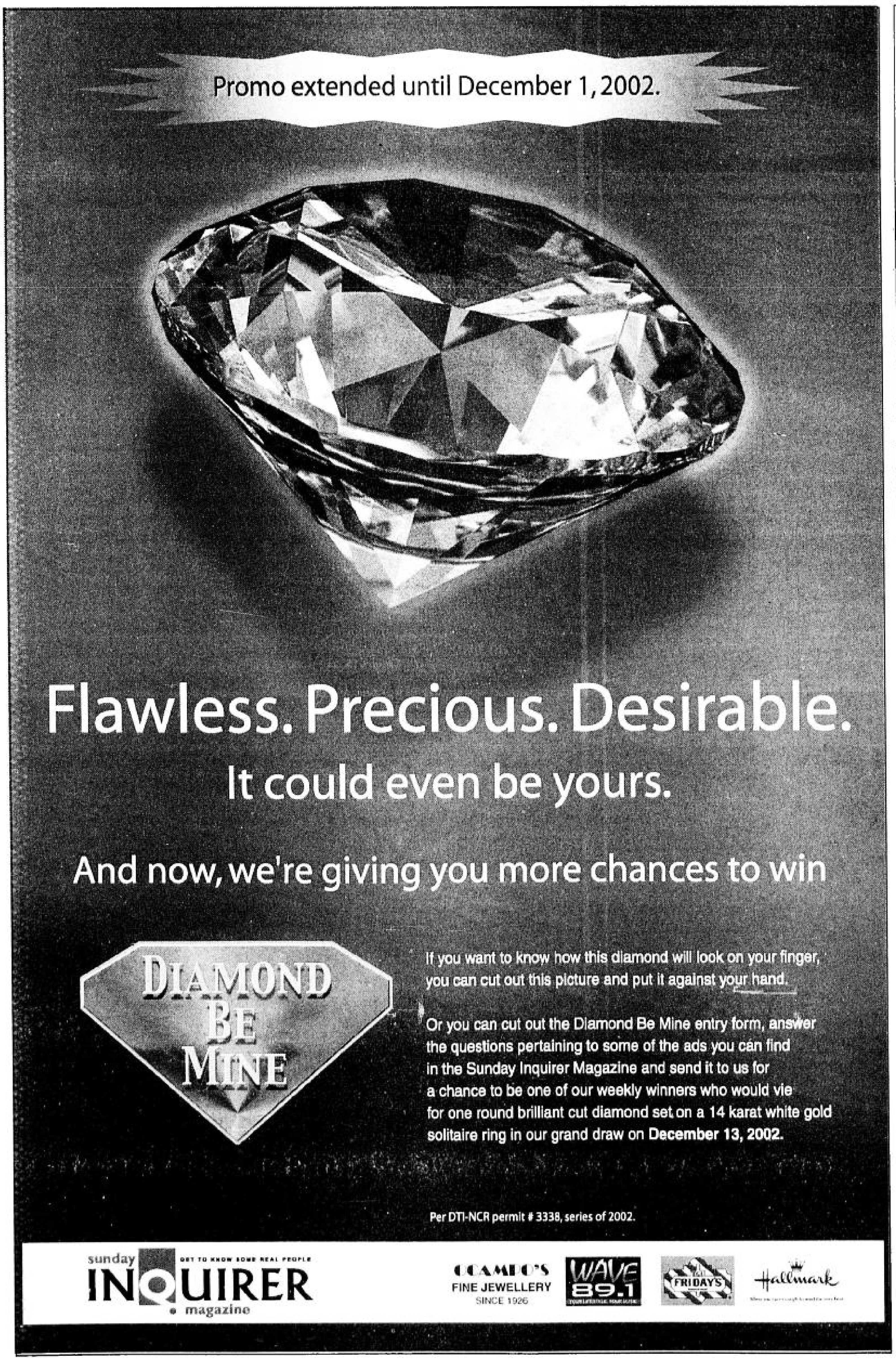

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Per DTI-NCR permit # 3338, series of 2002.

sunday INQUIRER magazine
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There's **BIG** Money in Pet Foods.

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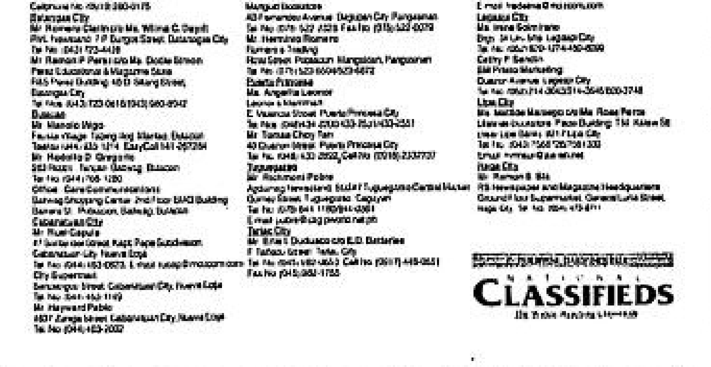

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In Loving Memory

on the

Sixth Death Anniversary

of

IRENE R. CORTES

RETIRED JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
PHILIPPINES

MASSES WILL BE OFFERED IN THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES TODAY, OCTOBER 29, 2002:

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH — 6:00 A.M.
UP Village, Quezon City
HOLY SPIRIT — 6:00 P.M.
BF Homes, Quezon City
BASILICA OF THE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PEÑAFRANCIA — 6:00 A.M.
Naga City
ST. GREGORY CATHEDRAL — 6:00 A.M.
Legaspi, Albay
ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH — 6:00 A.M.
Legaspi City
ST. JUDE CHURCH — 6:00 A.M.
Legaspi City
LIBON PARISH CHURCH — 6:00 A.M.

HER FAMILY, NEPHEWS/NIECES AND OTHER RELATIVES REQUEST THE PIOUS READER TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR PRAYERS FOR THE ETERNAL REST AND LIFE EVERLASTING OF IRENE.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die.
God made us for this very reason and
He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

ATTY. FRANCISCO "PAQUITO" MARASIGAN LECAROZ

Former Congressman, Lone Dist. Marinduque (1957-1972),
Former Mayor, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque (1978-1988)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 26th day of October at the age of 78.

His wife **Rosa** and his children
Lilibeth and **Louie Garcia**
Lorimer (Deceased)
Lovelie and **Garry Wong**
Lenlie and **Tuttie Lecaroz**
Laurent and **Jennie Lecaroz**
And grandchildren
Luigi and **Lorenzo Garcia**
Laureen and **Leandro Wong**
Lizzie and **Lizanne Lecaroz**
Lanz Lecaroz
Sister, **Araceli** (deceased) and **Apolonio V. Marasigan**
Brothers **Vicente** and **Patria**
Aristeo and **Aurora**

other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the ancestral home, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque.

Interment will be on November 2, 2002 at the Sta. Cruz Municipal Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. funeral Mass at the Holy Cross Parish Church.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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In Loving Memory

ON THE FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

ASUNCION "SONING" HOJAS ESCAÑO

of Cagayan de Oro City

(BELOVED WIFE OF THE LATE ROQUE "TETE" VAÑO ESCAÑO AND FOUNDRESS & FIRST CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD RIA HOJAS ESCAÑO FOUNDATION, INC.)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord last October 29, 1997

Holy Masses will be offered today, Tuesday, October 29, 2002 at the following:

Greenhills Memorial Park, Bulua .... 4:00 p.m.
San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Cugman .... 6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish, Gusa .... 6:00 a.m.
Jesus Nazareno Parish, Recto Avenue .... 5:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Camaman-an .... 6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmen .... 6:00 a.m.
St. Augustine Cathedral .... 5:30 p.m.
San Antonio Parish, Nazareth .... 6:00 a.m.
Santo Niño Parish, Cogon .... 6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Bulua .... 6:00 a.m.
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Camaman-an .... 6:00 a.m.
Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Malaybalay, Bukidnon .... 6:00 a.m.

The RIA (ROQUE, ISIDRO & ASUNCION) Hojas Escaño Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff, Grandson FRANZ JOSEF, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember ASUNCION in their prayers.

GREGORIA (GOYANG) BACANI ALFONSO

December 24, 1905 – October 27, 2002

Her children Hermie and Oscar Maiquez, Fil and Ana Alfonso, her grandchildren and great grandchildren request you to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati. The funeral Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. on October 30, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

In lieu of flowers, we will appreciate your making a donation to Carwheel Foundation for the education of indigent children in Miarayon, Bukidnon.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

GONZALO "BOY" LOPEZ GALURA

who joined his Creator on October 18, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Remembering Our Beloved...
Dra. Engrasia V. Lagman

Schedule of Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on her Tenth Death Anniversary in the following Churches on October 30, 2002

CHRIST THE KING
GREEN MEADOWS AVE., Q.C.
6:00 A.M.

SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
EDSA COR. ORTIGAS AVE., Q.C
6:30 A.M.

THE GOOD SHEPERD PARISH
REGALADO AVE., FAIRVIEW, Q.C
7:00 P.M.

TWIN HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY
WEST TRIANGLE, Q.C.
6:30 A.M.

LOURDES CHURCH
KANLAON ST., Q.C
7:30 A.M.

MT. CARMEL SHRINE
NEW MANILA, Q.C
6:00 A.M.

STA. RITA DE CASCIA PARISH
PHILAM LIFE HOMES, Q.C.
6:30 A.M.

STA. PERPETUA PARISH
D. TUAZON, Q.C.
6:00 A.M.

MARY THE QUEEN
WEST GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, Q.C.
6:00 A.M.

OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH
MALATE, MANILA
6:00 A.M.

IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH
SAN AGUSTIN PARISH, INTRAMUROS, MANILA
6:30 A.M.

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
MCKINLEY ROAD, FORBES PARK, MAKATI CITY
6:15 A.M. 12:15 P.M.
7:30 A.M. 6:00 P.M.

MONASTERIO DE STA. CLARA
C-5 KATIPUNAN AVE., Q.C
6:00 A.M.

SANTUARIO DE SANJOSE
EAST GREENHILLS, MANDALUYONG CITY
7:15 A.M.

BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPCION
MANILA METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
7:30 A.M.

NAT'L SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
STO. DOMINGO CHURCH, Q.C.
7:15 A.M.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
DOLORES, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
6:00 A.M.

SAN AGUSTIN PARISH
SAN AGUSTIN, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
6:30 A.M.

STA. RITA PARISH
STA. RITA, PAMPANGA
5:30 A.M.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA
6:15 A.M.

"You will be forever in our hearts, Nanay"

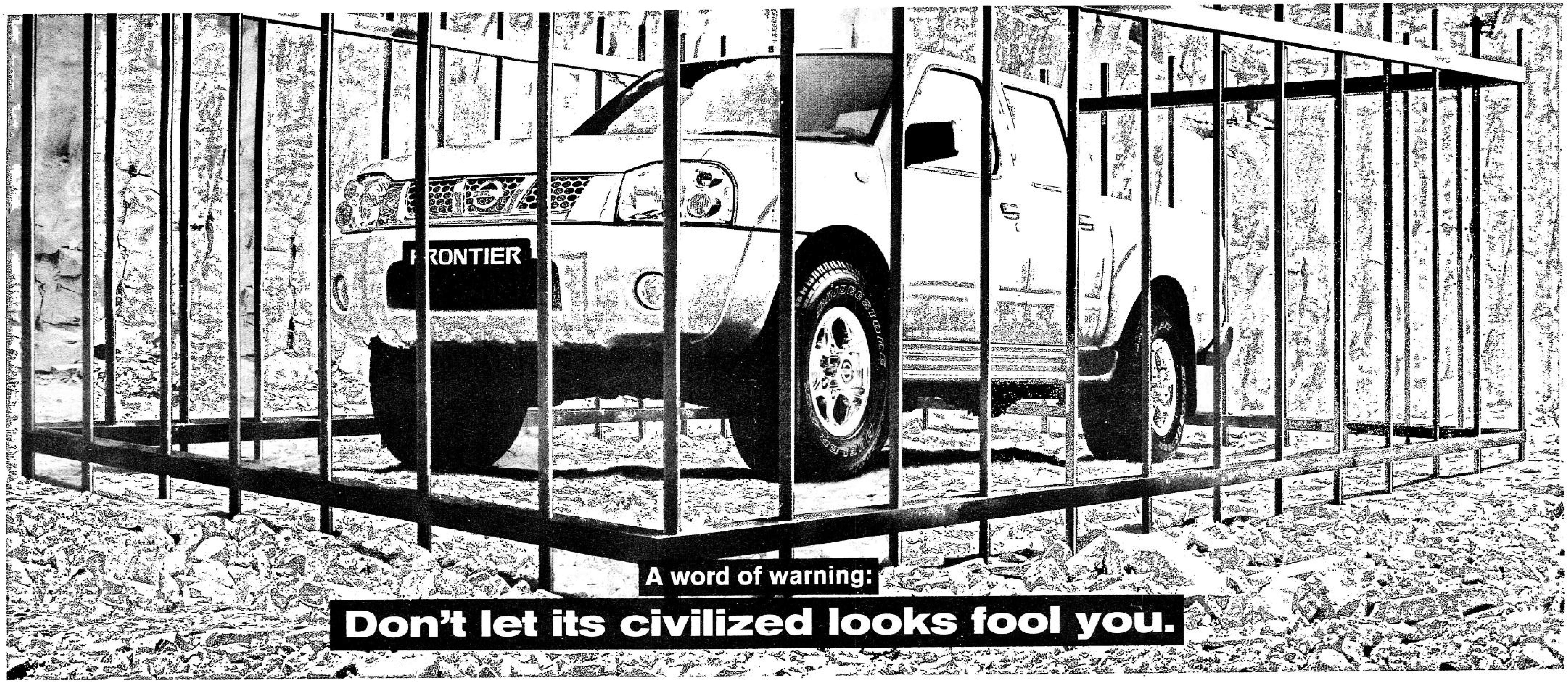
FLORENCIA "Puring" SAGUINSIN

PRO ECCLESIA PONTIFICE
Peacefully joined her Creator on October 27, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved children, ERIC & MAYET, MARYANN, NORALIZA & MANNY, ANNA; grandchildren, JAY & JET, LON & MIMI, ARON, AISA, NIKKO, CHE, CAMILA, GRAHAM, GRANT, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #94 13th Avenue, Cubao , Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 30, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Eternal Gardens Crematory, Baesa, Caloocan City.



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LIFESTYLE Fitness

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Anti-cellulite treatments: Cellulite pills

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

SINCE cellulite affects majority of women, the lecture about the latest in anti-cellulite treatments given by research scientist Len Kravitz during the Idea World Fitness Convention was well attended. Last week, I shared his review on anti-cellulite creams. This week's column is about the effectiveness of herbal supplements in the treatment of cellulite.

The idea that you can reduce cellulite by taking a pill is both revolutionary and controversial

The idea that you can reduce cellulite by taking a pill is both revolutionary and controversial. Revolutionary because all other treatments focus on creams, massage (whether manual or mechanical), diet and exercise. It's controversial because a legal

ANTI-CELLULITE/ p.C4

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Nature still best source for health-promoting products

By Belle V. Bondoc

Keeping the human immune system healthy can be quite simple, involving a return to basics

WHILE most people take common illnesses for granted, a few realize that such ailments could lead to more serious problems that could affect the immune system.

For instance, a chronic cough due to smoking could lead to lung diseases like asthma or, worse, to heart problems that may result in disability or even death when not given proper attention.

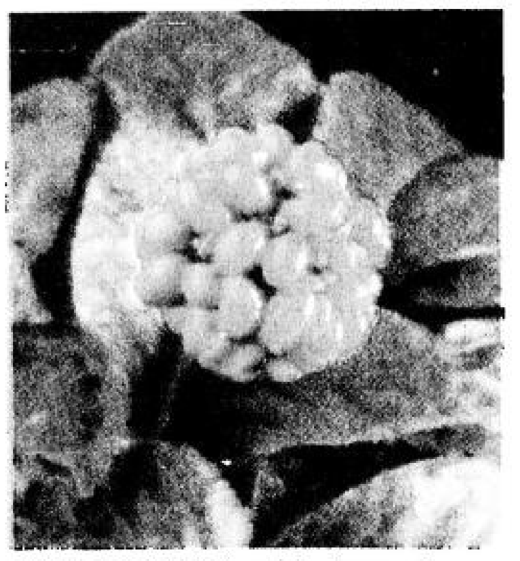
The human body, like a machine, needs energy, and it has to come from the right sources. Through proper maintenance, the body functions efficiently and longer. It deteriorates when harmful substances overrun the system.

Substances harmful to the human body are absorbed through unhealthy diet and lifestyle, such as smoking, alcohol intake and use of prohibited drugs.

Eventually they interfere with the proper functioning of the immune system, which, when working properly, wards off disease, combats illness, and even overcomes the harmful effects of certain environmental pollutants and toxins.

Scientists have been developing drugs to treat specific diseases, but they have yet to create an adequate substitute to a healthy immune system. But then, keeping the existing one healthy can be quite simple.

Dr. Jau-Fei Chen lists the basic requirements for maintaining a healthy immune system: "Eat more fruits and vegetables, engage in sports activities, stay away from vices and make E. Excel products part of your daily life."


ANTIOXIDANTS found in ginseng berry may complement the body's antioxidant defense system.

Chen is the founder of E. Excel International, a US-based research and manufacturing corporation that distributes natural food products.

A leading immunologist, she has devoted her life to the study of the prevention and control of diseases. Through her extensive research, Chen realized that many medications, while effective, caused numerous side effects. Concluding that, indeed, prevention was better than cure, she focused on "nutritional immunology," a field of study that looked into the importance of plant foods in the proper functioning of the immune system.

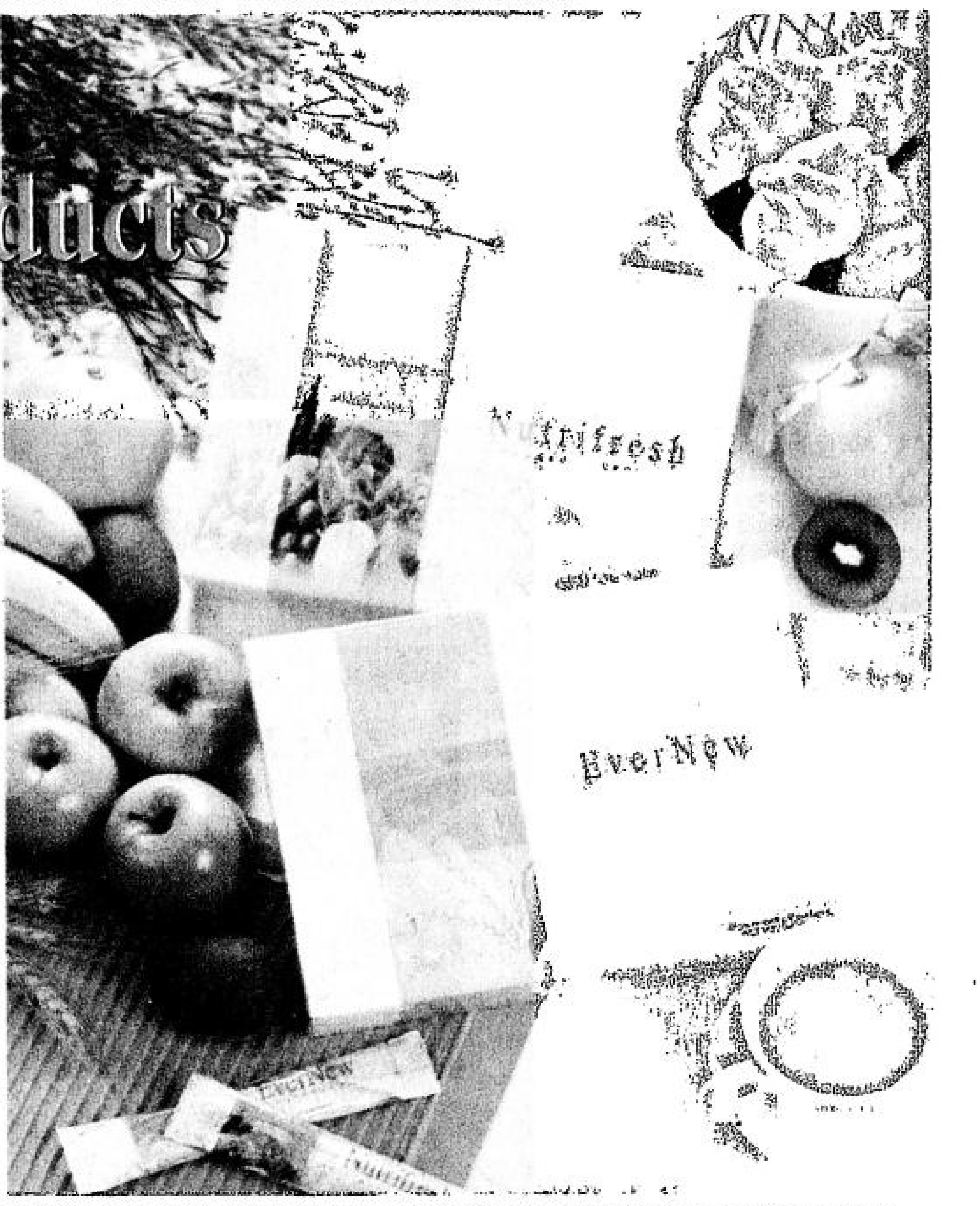
Global impact

For 15 years now, E. Excel International has been in the business of producing nutrient-rich food products. The company has expanded from the US and Canada to Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Europe and the Philippines.

Recently, E. Excel Malaysia, led by Chen, held its 11th anniversary convention at the Shah Alam Indoor Arena Stadium Malawati. Before media people from different countries and E. Excel distributors from Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, she reiterated the company's commitment to promote "good health."

She talked about E. Excel's mission to harness the power of nature through health products developed with the use of the most advanced technology. Her talk emphasized the benefits one could get from nature. She also discussed how her company has been able to maintain its position as one of the largest networking companies in the world.

From the size of the audience, it would appear that many people now believe in nutritional immunology that E. Excel is promoting.



BASIC NUTRITION DRINK. These provide the body with the fuel it needs to carry out day-to-day functions.

"Our success depends on the number of people that we have touched and how many lives we have changed," says Chen. "What is really important is not making money but helping people realize the value of staying healthy."

The products

E. Excel products are used by people of all ages. The company has created a complete line of all-natural health supplements and beverages, whole-food concentrates, performance drinks as well as a skin care line. The products, processed under the highest quality standards, contain all-natural and pure unique plant ingredients and are formulated to meet different people's needs.

"Artificially created vitamins can only mimic nutrients found in plants. In the long term, they are not adequate substitutes for vitamins from natural source," explains Chen.

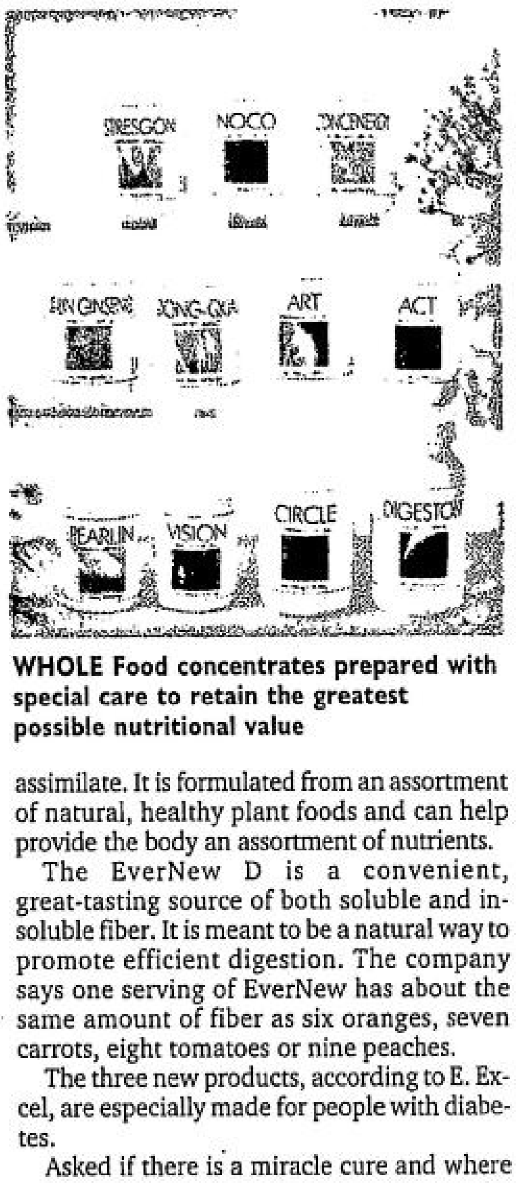
The safest and most effective way to obtain essential vitamins, according to her, is through herbs and plants.

The company will soon be launching three new products personally researched, examined and formulated by Chen. The latest products include the most talked-about Gin Berry.

The extract from the rare ginseng berry is supposed to help protect the skin from environmental exposure and from stress caused by the body's natural activities. Found to be rich in antioxidants—it has reportedly 1.4 times more antioxidants than vitamin C—it can help provide extra nourishment for the body. (Antioxidants neutralize damaging atoms and chemicals known as free radicals resulting from disease processes.)

The antioxidants in ginseng berry, when taken, can help the body's natural antioxidant defense system. Chen says this particular product enhances the athletic ability of most people. The product may also help people with diabetes because it supposedly helps balance sugar level.

Another new product, the NutriFresh D, is designed to provide a low-calorie source of plant-based protein, which the body can easily assimilate. It is formulated from an assortment of natural, healthy plant foods and can help provide the body an assortment of nutrients.



WHOLE Food concentrates prepared with special care to retain the greatest possible nutritional value

The EverNew D is a convenient, great-tasting source of both soluble and insoluble fiber. It is meant to be a natural way to promote efficient digestion. The company says one serving of EverNew has about the same amount of fiber as six oranges, seven carrots, eight tomatoes or nine peaches.

The three new products, according to E. Excel, are especially made for people with diabetes.

Asked if there is a miracle cure and where it can be found, Chen replies, "It's in the supermarket...where you can find your vegetables and fruits. What we really want people to see [from] our products are the benefits they can get from nature."

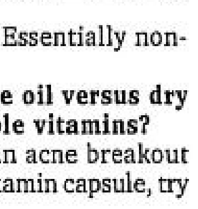
She believes that God's creations are better than human's.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com

PERFORMANCE Drink is supposedly rich in phytochemicals that protect the body against disease.

DR. Jau-Fei Chen with members of Filipino media, from left: Max Estacio (Malaya), the author, Virginia Ong (United Daily News), Phooi Hing Lau, GM, E. Excel Philippines, and Joseph Ong (World News)

More Q&A on health and beauty matters


INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

IT'S time to answer all your questions on certain health matters. Here are some eye-openers based on Earl Mindell's "Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century."

Tell me about the toxicity levels of certain vitamins.

Vitamin A (retinal, not beta carotene). More than 50,000 iu daily, if taken for many months, can produce toxic effects in adults such as hair loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, blurred vision, liver enlargement. More than 18,500 iu in infants and more than 34,000 iu beta carotene daily can cause yellowing of the skin. Recommended dosage: 10,000 iu if you take more than 400 iu Vitamin E daily.

Vitamin B-6. Daily doses of 2-10 g can cause neurological disorders.

Vitamin B-12. No known toxic levels. .

Vitamin C. Because it is excreted within two to three hours, it is important to maintain a constant high level of C in the body. No known toxicity level.

Vitamin E. Essentially non-toxic.

Should I take oil versus dry or water-soluble vitamins?

If you have an acne breakout after taking a vitamin capsule, try it in dry form.

When do vitamins expire?

They can last two to three years in a well-sealed container, kept cool and dry, away from light. Simply look at the expiration date of your vitamin. But even if you take an expired vitamin-mineral supplement, nothing can happen to you.

Any specific vitamin needs for smokers and drinkers?

If you are a heavy drinker, increase your Vitamin C and folic acid. If you are a heavy smoker, increase Vitamin C.

Health trivia

Soft drinks are high in phosphorus and may deplete your body calcium, thereby increasing your chances of having osteoporosis. If you are hypoglycemic, increase your potassium supplements. If you have been bedridden for more than a week, you need to take extra calcium (your body loses bone density during extended bed rest).

- Chlorinated water destroys Vitamin E and good intestinal bacteria. Increase your Vitamin E intake and eat yogurt if you consume chlorinated tap water.
- Low potassium levels may cause cravings for caffeine and a "sweet tooth."
- Magnesium is an aide in fighting depression and preventing heart attacks.
- Non-fat foods can make you gain weight because of their high sugar content.
- Soybeans are effective in inhibiting the growth of breast and prostate cancers as well as alleviating menopause.
- Natural hair dye? Some people claim that a combination of folic acid and Paba (para-amino benzoic acid) from the Vitamin B family restores the black color of hair.
- The symptoms of having too little stomach acid are exactly the same as having too much acid. In which case, an antacid would be the wrong medication. Take hydrochloric acid supplements (HCl) instead. But if you have ulcers, consult your doctor first.
- Regular use of acidophilus (friendly intestinal bacteria sourced from yogurt) keeps the intestines clean, eliminates bad breath and aids in the treatment of acne.
- Curcumin, derived from turmeric, the spice that gives curry powder its yellow color, is an antioxidant and is used to treat people with hepatitis C.
- Alfalfa sprouts contain eight essential enzymes. It is a natural diuretic and is used to treat urinary tract infections. (Note: Anyone with lupus should avoid this as it has been known to aggravate any auto-immune disorder.)
- Garlic, a natural antibiotic, was once used by the Soviet Army and known as Russian penicillin. It strengthens the immune system and lowers cholesterol.
- Spirulina, a complete protein (from blue-green algae), can suppress hunger pangs and aids in weight loss. Take one tablet one hour before meals.

Happy 50th Birthd
Vit C
Vitamin E
Folic Acid
Vit B
E.Excel
Soy Beans
ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

- Chlorella (emerald algae), sometimes called the perfect whole food, is best used for detoxification to be taken on an empty stomach.

What is the best way to de-stress yourself?

Oftentimes the easiest way to de-stress is to follow your feelings. You may:

- While taking a hot bath, close your eyes for five minutes.
- Read an inspiring book.
- Chat with a friend.
- Practice meditation for 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes before sleeping.
- Go to a spa and pamper yourself.
- Watch a funny movie.
- Be close to nature. Take a walk in the park or watch sunrise or sunset by the sea.

What is your least expensive beauty ritual?

My all-time favorite is the sugar scrub. To clean your skin, gently rub sugar and olive oil on your face as an exfoliant. Stop when your skin tingles. Rinse and moisturize. You may repeat the procedure all over your body.

If you have an open mind, there are many new and exciting ways to improve the quality of your life.

Love and light!

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

The many ways to healing

Breast cancer meeting discusses holistic approach to fighting the dreaded disease

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Roger Carpio

THERE are roads to healing other than traditional Western medicine. Survivors of breast cancer will be the first to tell you that there are various ways to heal one's body, spirit and psyche.

I Can Serve (Information on Breast Cancer and other Services) Foundation, together with Liz Claiborne, held recently a breast cancer symposium at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City. The foundation's mission is to provide women with information on breast cancer so they can make wise decisions about their health. It also provides access to support services that will help a breast cancer survivor heal more effectively.

The symposium focused on the holistic approach to healing, and featured speakers from various fields and disciplines. Annabelle Alejandrino discussed the benefits of Sheng Zhen Qi Gong, the practice of moving and non-moving meditations that enhance one's health by relieving stress and helping open one's heart to allow positive *chi* to flow into one's heart.

Alejandrino said the practice of *qi gong* quieted the mind and removed whatever garbage was there. "*Qi gong* teaches you to laugh at yourself, to handle your stress. When *chi* flows into your heart, you become more patient, lively and at peace. The power to be happy and to be well lies within the heart of every person."

Maribe Garcia of Bethesda Healing Ministry spoke on the power of prayer in healing. She emphasized the need to connect with the Lord through prayer, and that physical healing became meaningless if the sick person was not brought closer to God.

"Fear and anger are often components of a person's physical illness. So it is very important not only to forgive others but to forgive ourselves as well. That is crucial to healing," Garcia explained.

Connecting to the Lord through prayer, Garcia stressed, opened up hearts and made the load lighter.

Celeste Sanchez spoke about and demonstrated healing through music—how listening to music enlivened the spirit and brought joy to daily living.

Susan Aycardo, a breast cancer survivor, talked about how her art became a vehicle to transform her fears and her pain. Aycardo's colorful works were on display, some of them for sale, outside the Liz Claiborne shop.

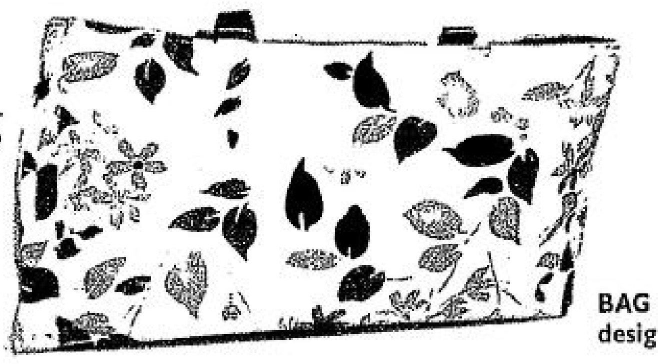
Also on display were gift items being offered by the I Can Serve Foundation to fund its operation and projects. For Christmas 2002, Carlo Tanseco of Store Inc. and Atmosfera designed Zen aromatherapy bowls with mulberry wood shavings shaped into flowers and Ishq-made bags designed for women with healthy lifestyles.

I Can Serve can be reached through 687-3942 or visit www.icanserve.com

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

ANNABELLE Alejandrino demonstrates *qi gong*.

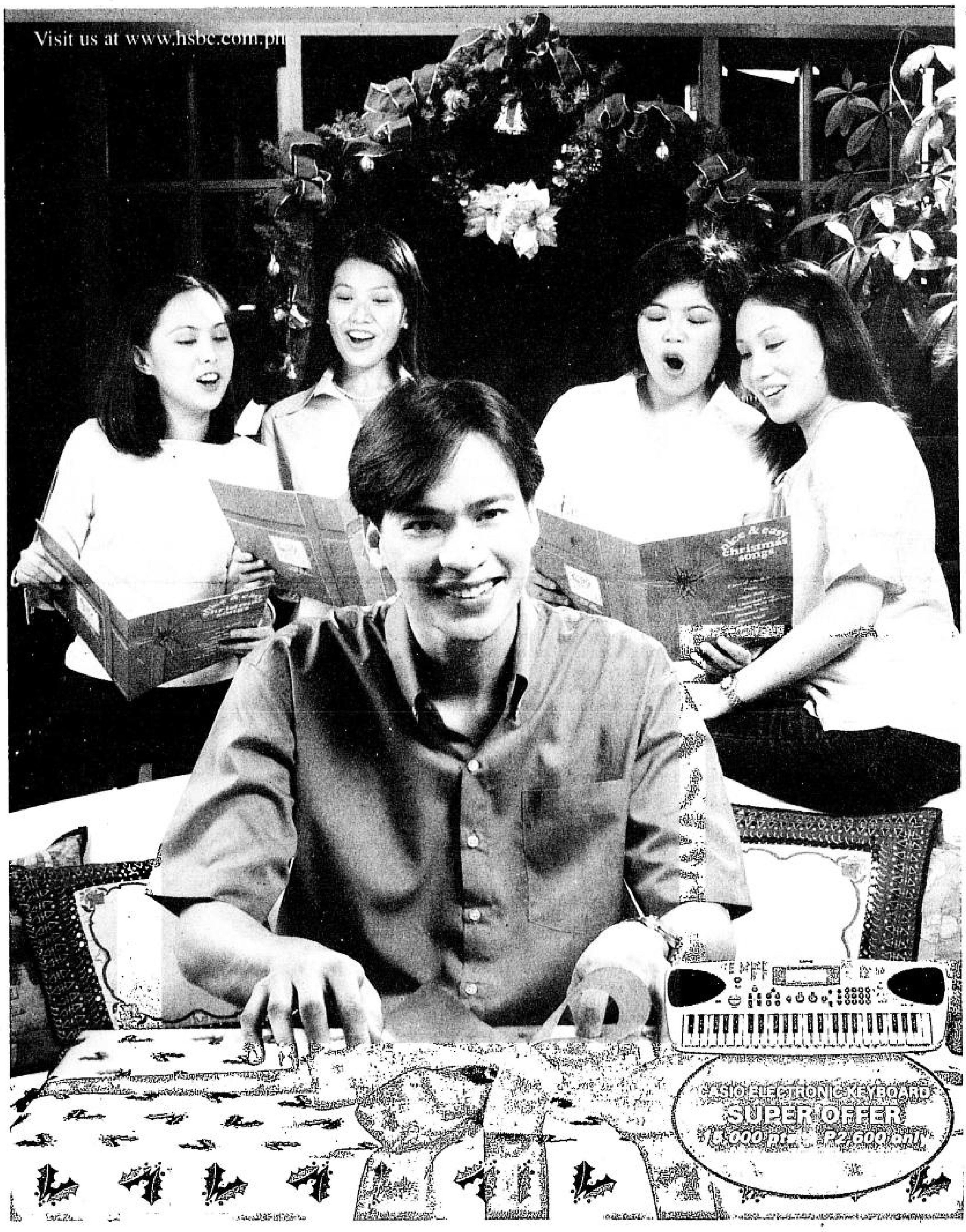
CRISAN Celdran, Bet Lazatin and Maritoni Fernandez lead other women in *qi gong*.


BAG for a cause, designed by Ishq

ZEN aromatherapy bowls

PRAYER HEALS. Maribe Garcia of Bethesda

KARA Magsanoc-Alikpala and Susan Aycardo in prayer.



Get great rewards for a song.

Christmas comes early in the Philippines with the return of HSBC's Super Offer!

Curious isn't it? While the rest of the world celebrates Christmas in December, here in the Philippines you can already hear people caroling.

Now, with Super Offer, an exclusive feature of HSBC's Rewards, you can also get your Christmas gifts earlier. Give yourself even more exciting Rewards using less points and less cash --- up to 50% off! From 09 to 13 November (9am to 5pm), choose your Rewards from the new Super Offer catalog and give us a call at 878-7880*. It's that simple!

Super Offer means getting more out of your credit card spend, especially during this Yuletide season. So keep on using your credit card from HSBC. If you still don't have one, apply now and let the world's local bank make it easier for you to get some of the best Rewards in town. For more details, call 878-7878.

* *Open for Super Offer inquiries and redemptions on 09-13 November 2002, from 9 am to 5 pm. For calls outside Metro Manila, please call 1-800-1-888-8555.*

SUPER OFFER REWARDS

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Anti-cellulite treatments: Cellulite pills

From page C1

battle is ongoing between the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Rexall, the United States' distributor of Cellasene, the most popular cellulite pills.

The FTC took issue with Rexall's use of the phrases "It helps eliminate cellulite at its source" and "fights cellulite from the inside" in its marketing materials, because, according to the FTC, Rexall did not have the clinical evidence to back up these claims.

Kravitz's opinion on Cellasene is that there is not enough scientific evidence to say if it works or not because many of the studies were poorly designed and there are independent conflicting studies.

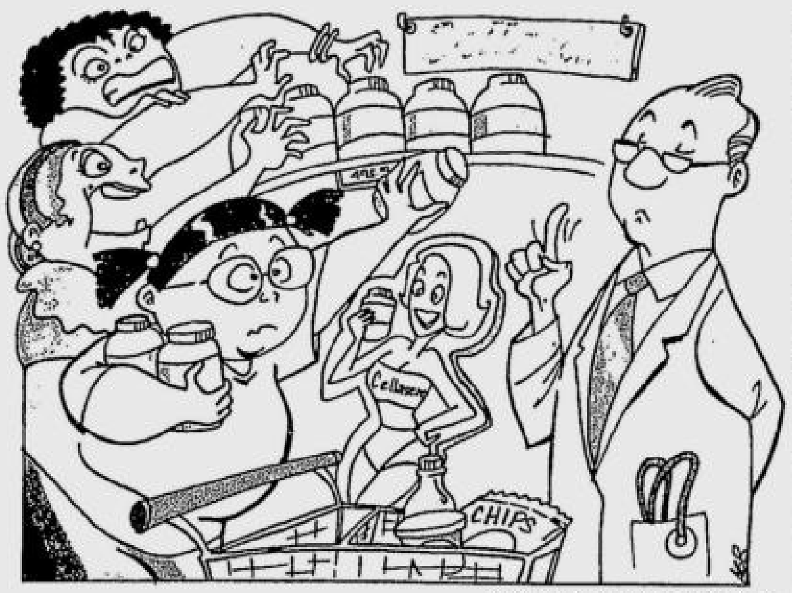


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The theory behind the use of Cellasene is that cellulite is basically a circulation problem. According to the website of Bionax, local distributor of Cellasene, the product "improves blood circulation to cellulite areas, so your body can use the trapped fat as a source of energy. It also increases your body's metabolic rate, so that fat can be used at a faster rate." Additionally, the website mentions that Cellasene can "counteract fluid retention."

So the four main benefits of taking Cellasene are supposed to be increased blood circulation, reduced fluid build-up, stimulation of metabolism and reduction in localized fats.

Cellasene was invented by Italian chemist Gianfranco Merizzi in 1997. It was launched in Australia in 1999 with a high-profile ad campaign that featured women almost stampeding to get their hands on the product. The reaction was the same in the US.

It's easy to understand why something like Cellasene could cause a mini-riot. Who would not want to take a pill twice a day (or three times daily for a more "intensive" program) for eight weeks and watch her cellulite vanish into thin air?

Many women believed in the Cellasene promise that Rexall sold $54 million worth of the product in six months, according to the Miami Herald. The amazing sales and media hype that surrounded Cellasene eventually caught the attention of the FTC. The case has not yet been settled.

Sales were never the same after the initial six months because as Rexall president Tim Richerson told the Herald, "There was significant positive PR that drove a lot of consumers to try the product, but once we got the challenge from the FTC, we did not dedicate any additional marketing dollars for the brand and spent all our resources on resolving the FTC challenge." Richerson added that the "sales fall-off also stemmed in part from the disappointment of consumers who mistakenly expected Cellasene to cure their cellulite almost immediately."

Legal battles over marketing techniques and unrealistic consumer expectations aside, does the product work? That's what many women, including me, want to know. With no conclusive scientific evidence in sight, knowing both sides of the story is the only way to make an informed decision.

The initial research study that was used by Rexall as clinical evidence in its Cellasene campaign was done at the University of Pavia in Italy. It involved 25 women. The study claimed that hip, thigh and ankle measurements were smaller after taking Cellasene for eight weeks. Since there was no control group and no placebo group, it was criticized by the scientific community as being poorly designed. Additionally, the study was never published in any peer-reviewed scientific journals, and that is always a "kiss of death" for serious scientists.

A second Pavia study confirmed the findings of the first. It involved 40 women. Twenty-five women took the product while 15 women took a placebo. Neither group knew who was taking what but the researchers did because only the Cellasene group underwent periodic blood tests. Not quite as good as a double-blind placebo experiment where neither the participants nor the researchers know who is taking the real thing but better designed than the first experiment. Unfortunately, this study was never published either.

US plastic surgeon George Beraka conducted a 12-week study on 10 women and concluded that Cellasene was effective. However, this study was not published in a scientific journal also.

At this point, you may be wondering why being "published" is a big deal. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal means that your experiment procedures will be closely scrutinized by fellow scientists in your field. Research studies that are not published or are published in non-peer-reviewed journals are not considered as reliable as those that are.

A 1998 New York study that was published in the Journal of Plastic Reconstructive Surgery could not find any difference in the blood flow or "lipolytic responsiveness" (the way fat is burned) of cellulite and non-cellulite areas on the same individual. This is in direct contradiction to the Cellasene theory that cellulite is caused by poor blood circulation causing fat to be "trapped" in the thighs. The study was headed by Dr. Michael Rosenbaum, a leading researcher of fat anatomy and physiology.

A 1999 study at the South Bank University in London concluded that there was no difference in body weight, fat content, or hip and thigh measurements between 11 women who took Cellasene and eight women who took placebo.

Stung by criticism that the Pavia experiments were not well designed, Rexall commissioned the University of Miami to do a study on 240 women. It would have been the largest Cellasene study, but head researcher Dr. Brian Berman called off the testing in June 2000 because the participants were required to show up six times to be tested but most did not.

The largest and longest study to date was published in the August 2001 issue of Flebologia, The Journal of the Argentina Medical Association. The study involved 45 women and ran for two months. According to the Bionax website, the main aim of the study was to determine the effect of Cellasene on microcirculation in the thighs. Seventy percent of the participants showed a decrease in fluid build-up, 68 percent showed an improvement in capillary density, 30 percent showed an improvement in skin surface and body contour.

Cellasene is a mixture of several herbs that are supposed to "form a powerful partnership against cellulite." Here is a list of the active ingredients, what they do according to various Cellasene websites, and what Dr. Stephen Barrett, head of Quackwatch and the National Council Against Health Fraud, has to say about them (in italics):

Dried sweet clover extract can increase blood circulation and assist in removing fluid build-up. *This ingredient may have mild diuretic action, but "fluid buildup" is not a factor in the appearance or composition of fatty tissue.*

Ginkgo biloba assists in blood circulation and stimulates the metabolism of fats. *Although ginkgo can increase circulation, it does not stimulate fat metabolism. Even if it did, there is no reason it would exert a localized effect.*

Grapeseed extract contains powerful antioxidants that protect cells and blood vessels from damage. *Whether antioxidant supplements help protect tissues is not scientifically settled. Regardless, any such mechanism has nothing to do with quantity or appearance of fatty tissues.*

Fucus vesiculosus or bladderwrack stimulates metabolism and can help reduce localized fats. *This herb contains significant amounts of iodine and could adversely affect the thyroid gland. The US Recommended Daily Allowance is 150 micrograms. The average American woman ingests 170 mcg from food (not including iodized salt). Each capsule of Cellasene contains 240 mcg of iodine. If enough were taken to increase thyroid function, the result would be unhealthy.*

Evening primrose oil and fish oil are rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, a source of energy that increases metabolic levels and helps in diminishing saturated fatty acids. *The "energy" is simply the caloric value. Neither oil increases metabolism nor reduces the amount of other fats one eats.*

Soya lecithin helps break down fats. *The body makes all the lecithin it needs. Lecithin supplements do not cause the body to shed fat.*

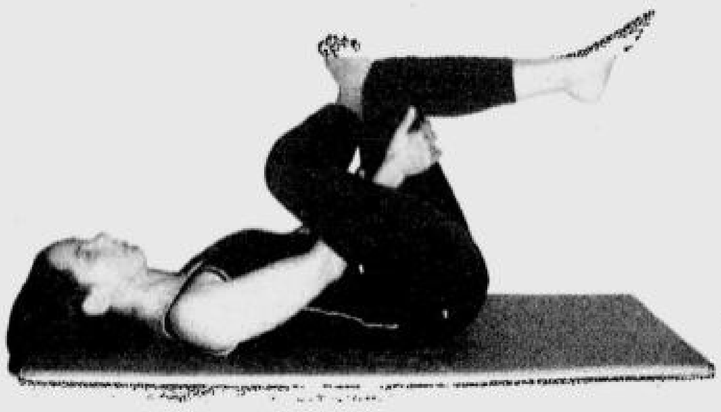
As you can tell from his comments, Dr. Barrett is definitely a Cellasene skeptic. As for the rest of us, we will have to wait for more conclusive scientific studies before passing judgment. Cellasene could be "The One That Works" as stated in the original ads, or it could be the most-hyped cellulite disappointment.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its 8th National Fitness Convention on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Three international presenters will hold workshops on group exercise, personal training and fitness management. Topics will include yoga, stability ball, how to develop a marketing plan, Pilates, squat exercise analysis, etc. For more details, call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647 or contact (0917) 518-1202.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

E-mail the author at fitness@attglobal.net.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Cross-legged buttocks and hamstring stretch

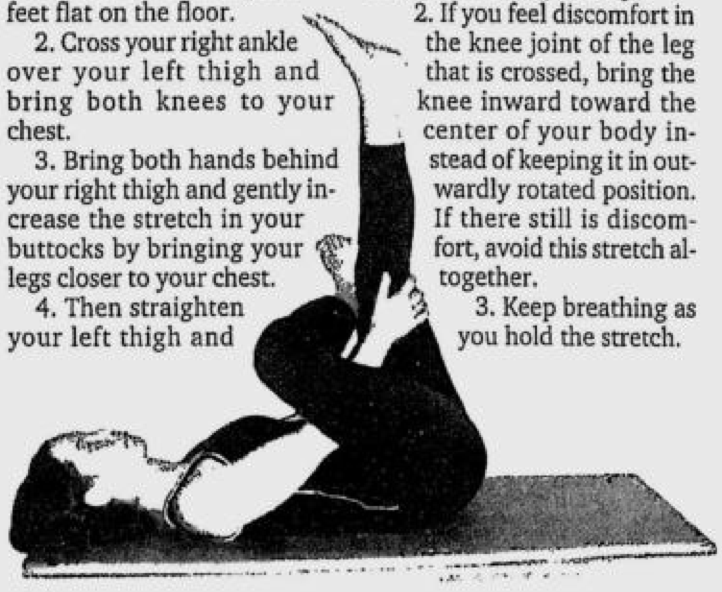
STRETCHES the muscles of the buttocks and hamstrings (back of the thighs).

Equipment

Exercise mat

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your back with your knees bent about shoulder-width apart and your feet flat on the floor.
2. Cross your right ankle over your left thigh and bring both knees to your chest.
3. Bring both hands behind your right thigh and gently increase the stretch in your buttocks by bringing your legs closer to your chest.
4. Then straighten your left thigh and feel the stretch in the hamstrings.
5. Hold for 20-30 seconds.
6. Repeat on the other side.



Performance tips

1. If you have very tight muscles, there is no need to use your hands to pull your legs toward your chest. Just keep them over your hips.
2. If you feel discomfort in the knee joint of the leg that is crossed, bring the knee inward toward the center of your body instead of keeping it in outwardly rotated position. If there still is discomfort, avoid this stretch altogether.
3. Keep breathing as you hold the stretch.

Calm the senses with massage and body treatments

HONEY body polish

EXPERIENCE the power of gentle massage.

YOU know you're in stress mode when you feel like feeding the annual report to your boss. It's undoubtedly stress when you entertain the thought of mincing your petulant kids to *menudo* bits. It's stress, no less, when you just want to give your grumpy old professor the finger when he breathes on your neck for your unfinished deadline.

Stress is a ubiquitous monster. Its claws sink into the corporate world, its fangs lurk in our homes, even schools are not spared. Its potent venom is felt from the workplace to school to the household front.

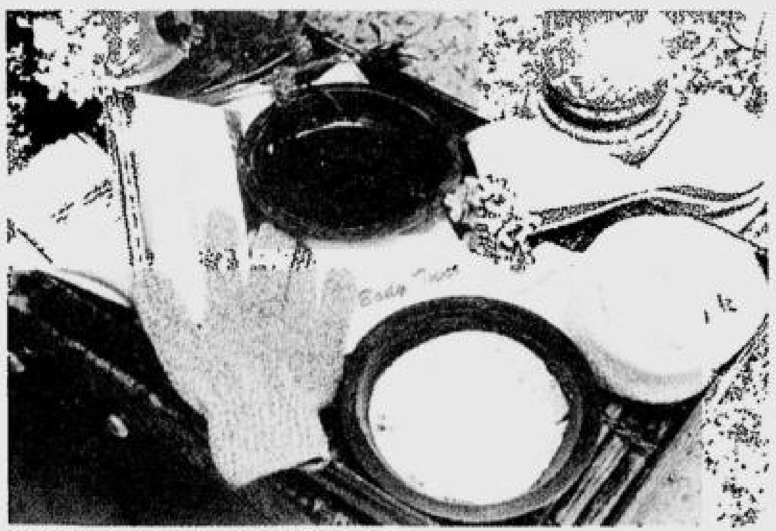
When stress attacks, most of us would simply clam up, seek refuge in our house and sulk. Others would go to the mall and window-shop (but the sight of those expensive items that you can't afford stresses you out even more!). Others would simply pop a pill or take a chemical antidepressant without knowing its side effects.

Here's good news: SM Supermalls now have two of the most luxurious massage centers. Inside the Annex buildings of SM City North Edsa and SM City Pampanga is Body Tune, which offers authentic, traditional Thai massage.

Thai massage is an ancient and natural healing method. This kind of massage uses point pressure, muscle stretching and compression. Thai massage is done in rhythmic movements that relieve body tension while rejuvenating it. Blood circulation is improved, nutrients indulged by the body are better absorbed.

Therapists at Body Tune have certificates from the Wat Po Traditional Medicine School in Bangkok, Thailand. Moreover, they are given further training in Hong Kong and Singapore.

BODY Tune has outlets at SM Northe Edsa and SM Pampanga.



BODY treatments from Body Tune

THAI massage uses muscle stretching.

Body Tune offers other services such as Swedish massage, Shiatsu massage, cellulite massage, holistic therapeutic massage, granular scrub massage, aroma facial massage and scalp massage. All the massages administered uses the purest essential oils imported from Europe and the US.

It also offers body treatments like honey body polish, body bleaching, dead sea salt body scrub, seaweed and sea salt polishing scrub and moor mud body scrub.

Though located inside the mall, Body Tune's ambience is no less different from that of a full-fledged spa. It features individualized service rooms, sauna, steam bath and luxury bath. Each room is equipped with sanitized linens and pillows, soothing oil lamps and piped-in music that promote stress release.

Together with SM Supermalls, Body Tune provides the convenience of stress relief while shopping. While the kids are shopping for their favorite trendy items, mom can indulge in a luxurious foot spa while dad can try holistic massage treatment.

There are also services for people on the go. The chair massage gives clients a quick relief from muscle tensions particularly in the head-shoulder-back area while the foot spa is sure to give you a lift.

Each service at Body Tune is affordable. One hour of Thai massage costs P450, while Swedish and Shiatsu massages cost P400 for an hour. A 30-minute foot massage costs P200 while foot spa is at P300. Body products such as cleaning milk with honey, scalp cream, underarm whitening cream, bleaching lotion and sunblock lotions are available at very affordable prices.

What's more, Body Tune offers its own privilege card. Valid for one year, the card entitles the cardholder to 11 sessions of body massage at the price of nine sessions (or two free sessions).

Body Tune will soon open its third branch at SM Southmall Las Piñas.

Body Tune is located on the LG/F SM City North Edsa (tel. 926-9654) and on the G/F SM City Pampanga ([045] 961-6389).

BODY Tune's sauna room

The first and only one of its kind in the Philippines.

Q: Ka Ernie, totoo ba talaga na makakakuha kami ng life insurance basta 50-80 years old kami?

A: Garantisado!

With LIFE your acceptance is guaranteed!
No medical exams. No health questions.
For as low as P725 a month!

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Lifetime Insurance For Elders

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

BASTA 50-80 YEARS OLD KA!

No health questions. No medical exams.

Acceptance for anyone 50-80 years old – GUARANTEED!
- No health questions asked.
- No medical exams.

Low fixed premium for the rest of your life – GUARANTEED!
- Premium as low as P725/month.
- Other plans available for higher cash benefits.

Cash insurance benefits that do not decrease with age – GUARANTEED!
- Your cash benefits are based on your enrollment age and you are covered for life, as long as you continue paying your premium.
- Benefit is up to three times the coverage in the event of accidental death.

Earn cash values – GUARANTEED!
- The cash values will keep increasing year after year.

Money back in 30 days – GUARANTEED!
- If within 30 days from the day we receive your signed application form and payment you change your mind about your LIFE policy, simply write us and we'll immediately return your money to you in full.

Get these cash benefits for as low as P725/month!
- Amount of Sum Insured for natural death including illnesses is based on Enrollment Age.
- Only death by accident is covered before the second anniversary of the policy.

Enrollment Age	50		55		60		65		70		75		80	
Coverage	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death
Sum Insured	P159,411	P637,644	P120,452	P481,808	P91,414	P365,656	P68,950	P172,375	P50,421	P126,053	P36,314	P90,785	P25,541	P63,853

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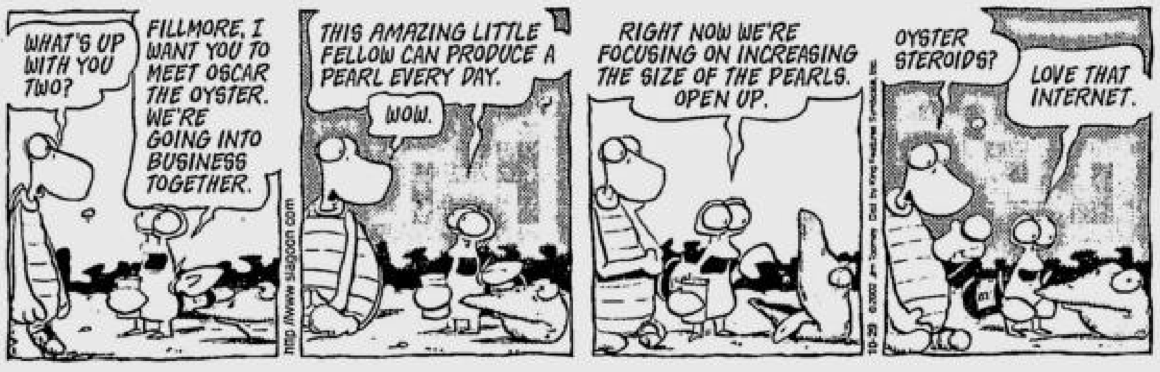
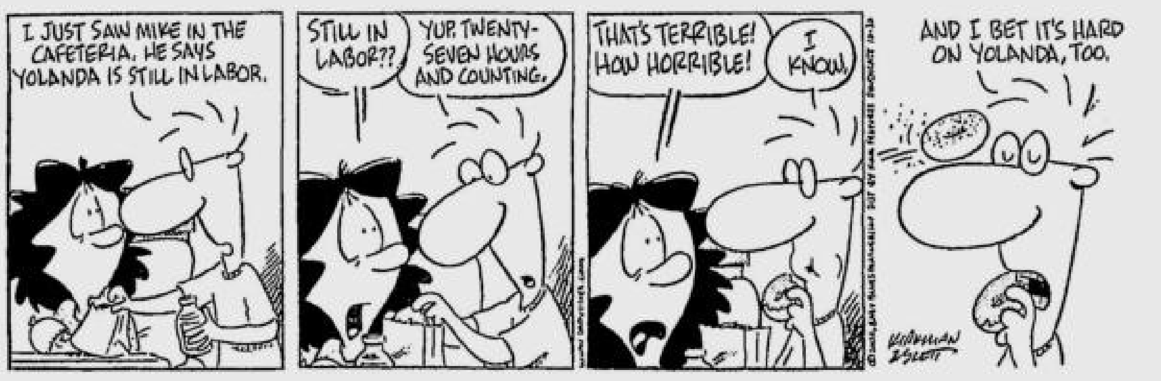
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TWO?
FILLMORE, I WANT YOU TO MEET OSCAR THE OYSTER. WE'RE GOING INTO BUSINESS TOGETHER.
THIS AMAZING LITTLE FELLOW CAN PRODUCE A PEARL EVERY DAY.
WOW.
RIGHT NOW WE'RE FOCUSING ON INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE PEARLS. OPEN UP.
OYSTER STEROIDS?
LOVE THAT INTERNET.
http://www.slagoon.com

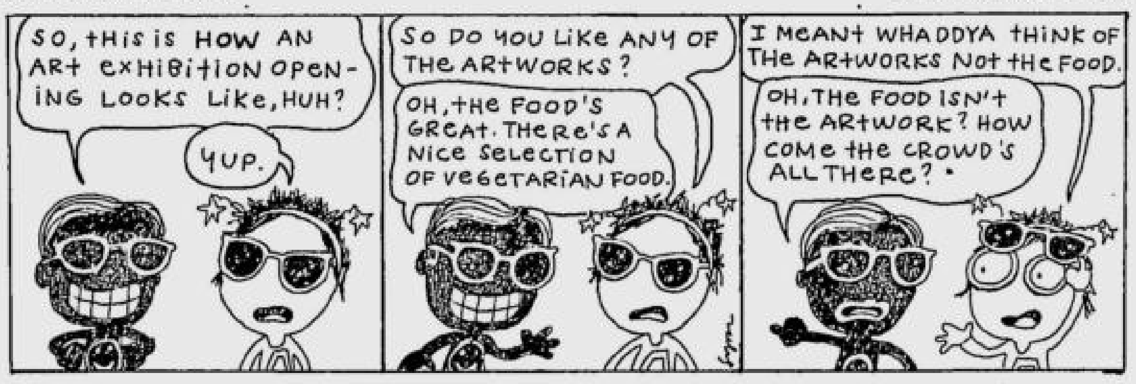
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I JUST SAW MIKE IN THE CAFETERIA. HE SAYS YOLANDA IS STILL IN LABOR.
STILL IN LABOR??
YUP. TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS AND COUNTING.
THAT'S TERRIBLE! HOW HORRIBLE!
I KNOW.
AND I BET IT'S HARD ON YOLANDA, TOO.
KIRKMAN SCOTT

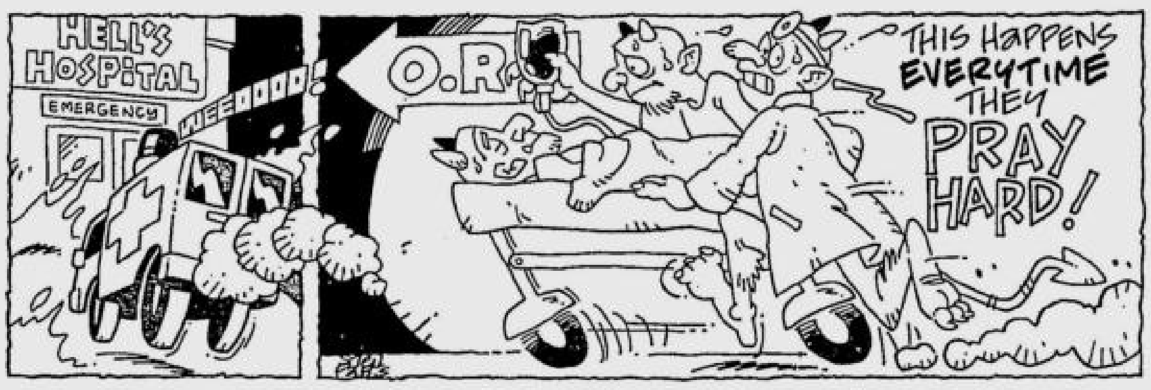
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO, THIS IS HOW AN ART EXHIBITION OPENING LOOKS LIKE, HUH?
YUP.
SO DO YOU LIKE ANY OF THE ARTWORKS?
OH, THE FOOD'S GREAT. THERE'S A NICE SELECTION OF VEGETARIAN FOOD.
I MEANT WHADDYA THINK OF THE ARTWORKS NOT THE FOOD.
OH, THE FOOD ISN'T THE ARTWORK? HOW COME THE CROWD'S ALL THERE?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HELL'S HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY
WEEOOOO!
O.R.
THIS HAPPENS EVERYTIME THEY PRAY HARD!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Richard Dreyfuss, Winona Ryder, Bill Mauldin, Amit Paul

Happy Birthday: You will be full of great ideas this year, so don't let your indecisiveness stand in the way of your progress. Concentrate on the projects that mean the most to you and let the others go. If you set your priorities straight, this can turn into a memorable year. Your numbers are 10, 23, 28, 31, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you've taken on too much, you can expect problems with your mate. Reevaluate your priorities and make a concerted effort to create balance in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make your plans early to spend a passionate day with someone you love and refuse to let other people interfere. Don't hesitate to make the first move. Be playful and creative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let family and friends put unrealistic demands on you today. Get out on your own, enjoying hobbies or creative endeavors. The time spent will be helpful to your business.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You don't need additional people on your domestic scene. If company drops by, make up an excuse to retire early. Get your relationship back on track by creating private time together.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may have a problem getting others to pitch in and help. Take a serious look at your career position and consider making moves that will be more lucrative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get friends or relatives who are reclusive out and involved in groups you belong to. It will do them a world of good and they will have a lot to offer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tempers may flare if you decide to work today. Your partner is tired of being neglected and you should make some special plans to compensate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel will be in order. You may find that a promotion will lead to a change of residence. Your gut feelings regarding new colleagues will be more accurate than you imagine. Pay attention to your intuition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take care of the hidden matters that were plaguing you in the past. Tie up loose ends and finalize legal documents and contracts. Once all this is done you can relax and enjoy yourself.

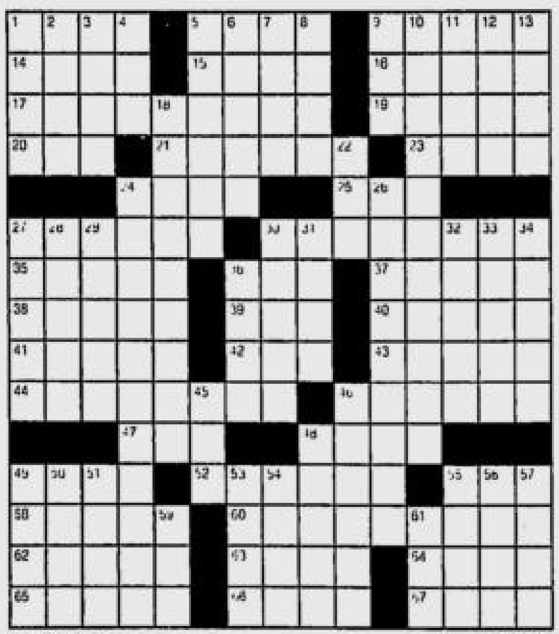
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Talk to those who can make a difference. You may find that you lost the one you wish to share your success with. Plan celebrations that include that special person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be interested in picking up a pet as a companion. Do some research before you make your choice. You should consider shuffling through some papers that will ease your workload tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan to spend time with friends and family. You may have been in the doghouse, but today is a new day and your mate will be more willing to forgive you. Do something special together.

Birthday Baby: You will be courageous, caring and confident in all that you do. You will be able to lead others in the direction you feel is best, and therefore you will never stand alone in your pursuits.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jim Page
New York, NY

10/29/02

ACROSS
1 Slugger Sammy
5 Buttocks
9 Slalom turns
14 Ended
15 Son of Isaac
16 Old as new again
17 Subway series
19 Be of profit
20 PC key
21 Singer Kitt
23 Observed
24 Marries
25 Mariner's org.
27 City near Rawalpindi
30 British meals
35 Worship
36 School of whales
37 Of a unit of resistance
38 Reiner and Jung
39 Miller play, "__ My Sons"
40 Ancient Greek marketplace
41 By Jove!
42 Mediocre grade
43 Afterwards
44 Treats after eats
46 Target sighters
47 Language ending
48 Take a powder
49 Disparaging remark
52 Native New Zealanders
55 Globe
58 Lukewarm
60 Reggie Jackson
62 Diner diner
63 Lion's pride
64 Yes indeed, Maria
65 Matter-of-fact
66 Pioneer U.S. auto maker
67 End of din?

DOWN
1 Forage crop
2 Ellipsoid
3 E-mailed
4 Two-by-two canoe?
5 Created anew
6 PC operators
7 Groening or Damon
8 Blackjack draw
9 Period
10 Decider in 24D, sometimes
11 Remain
12 Pennsylvania port
13 Marketed
18 Clairvoyants
22 Summer mo.
24 Fall classic
26 Most dangerously unnavigable
27 Tied, as shoes
28 Old saying
29 Round dances
30 Doughnut centers
31 Inactive
32 Get all melodramatic
33 Broadcaster
34 Wound marks
36 Solemn agreement
45 "Losing My Religion" group
46 "__ Restaurant"
48 Fern leaf
49 Instructions unit
50 Cordelia's father
51 As far as
53 Rounds or clips
54 Dental exam?
55 Final notice, briefly
56 Take five
57 French cheese
59 Arid
61 Full of: suff.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	O	R	■	A	R	A	L	■	M	O	S	E	S
L	E	V	I	■	L	O	N	E	■	E	V	I	T	A
O	D	E	S	■	K	A	N	T	■	G	U	L	A	G
H	I	R	E	S	A	N	A	G	R	A	M	■	■	■
A	C	T	U	A	L	■	■	O	I	L	■	P	A	L
■	■	■	P	O	O	H	S	■	B	I	G	A	M	Y
A	V	A	■	■	I	O	T	A	■	T	O	R	U	S
L	A	R	G	E	D	R	A	F	T	H	O	R	S	E
I	N	D	E	X	■	A	G	A	R	■	■	Y	E	S
C	N	O	T	E	S	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	■	■
E	A	R	■	R	O	D	■	■	N	A	V	E	L	S
■	■	■	A	C	T	R	E	S	S	T	A	L	I	A
F	E	R	M	I	■	A	R	I	A	■	D	U	E	T
T	R	A	P	S	■	M	A	R	C	■	E	D	G	Y
C	E	N	S	E	■	S	T	E	T	■	S	E	E	R

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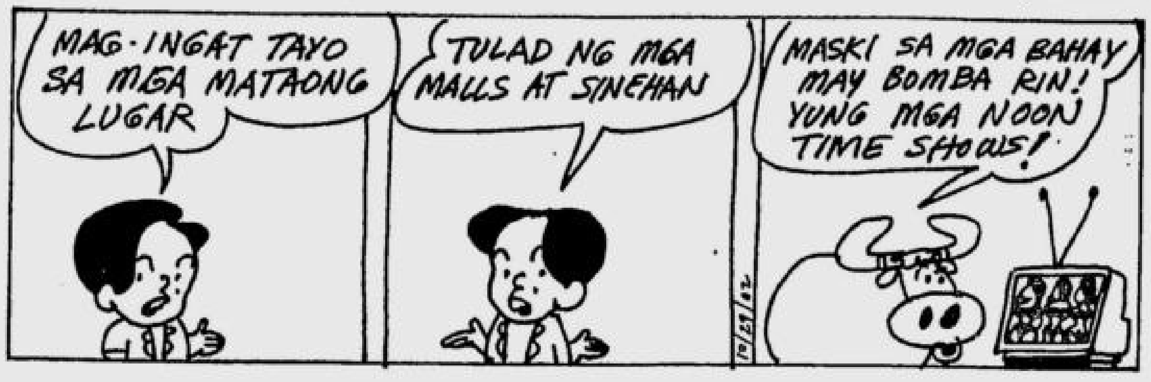
10/29/02

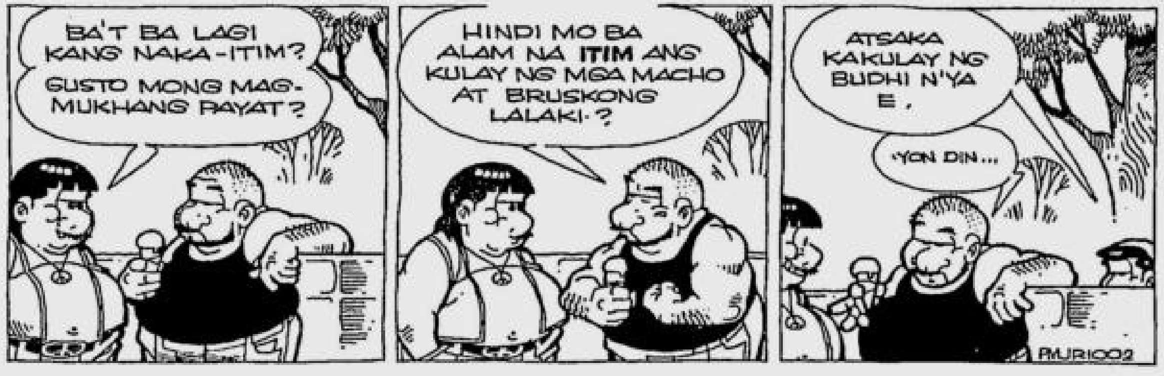
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAG-INGAT TAYO SA MGA MATAONG LUGAR
TULAD NG MGA MALLS AT SINEHAN
MASKI SA MGA BAHAY MAY BOMBA RIN! YUNG MGA NOON TIME SHOWS!
10/29/02

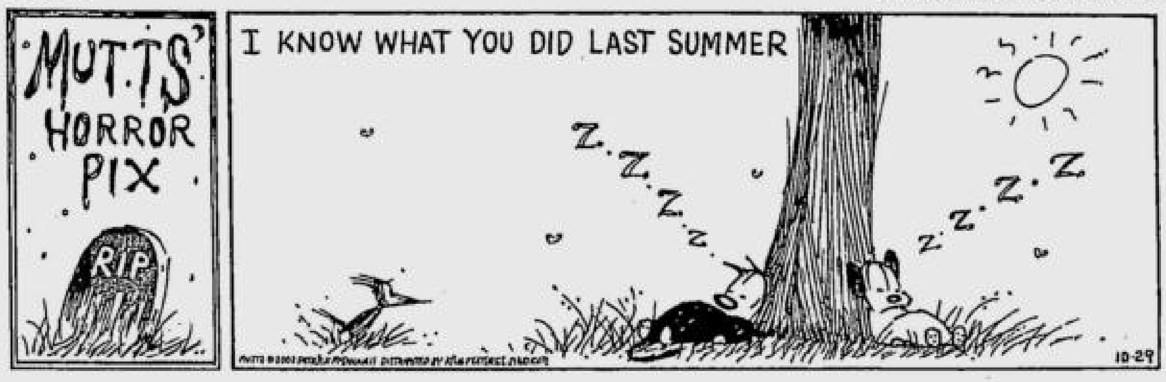
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BA'T BA LAGI KANG NAKA-ITIM?
GUSTO MONG MAG-MUKHANG PAYAT?
HINDI MO BA ALAM NA ITIM ANG KULAY NG MGA MACHO AT BRUSKONG LALAKI-?
ATSAKA KAKULAY NG BUDHI N'YA E.
'YON DIN...
PMJR1002

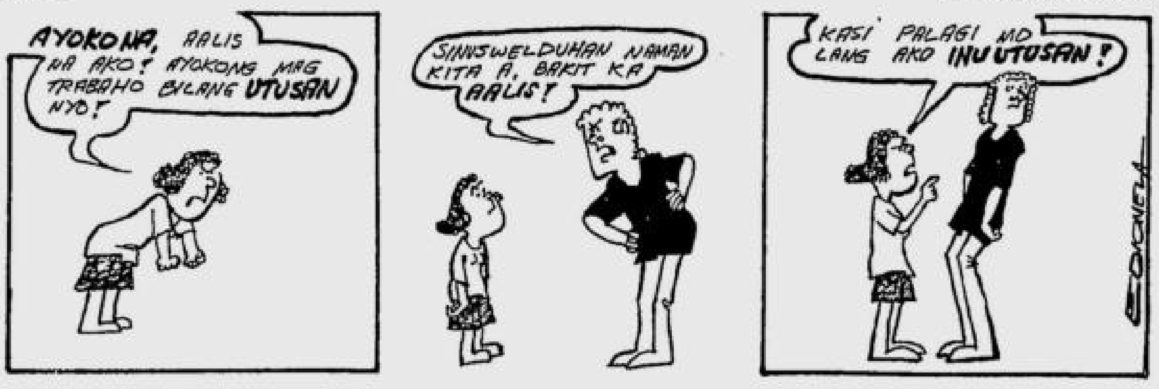
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS' HORROR PIX
RIP
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER
Z Z Z Z
Z Z Z Z
10-29

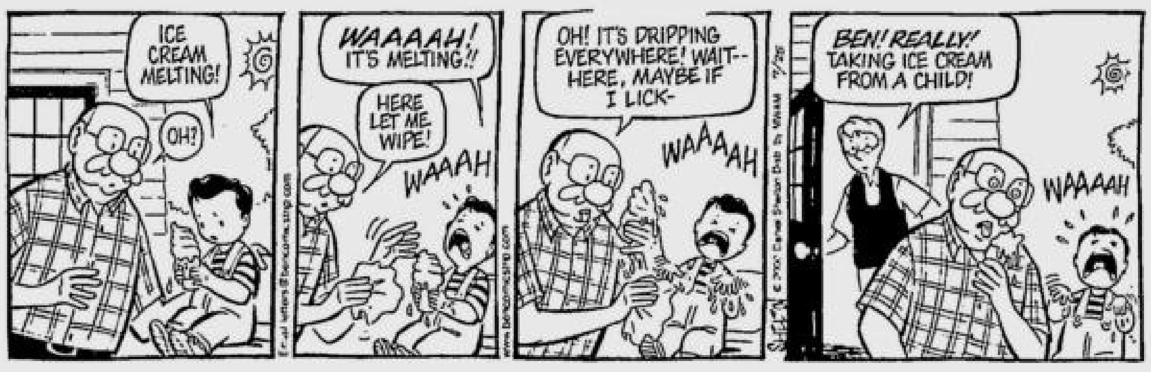
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AYOKO NA, AALIS NA AKO! AYOKONG MAG TRABAHO BILANG UTUSAN NYO!
SINISWELDUHAN NAMAN KITA A, BAKIT KA AALIS!
KASI PALAGI MO LANG AKO INUUTUSAN!
DIONELA

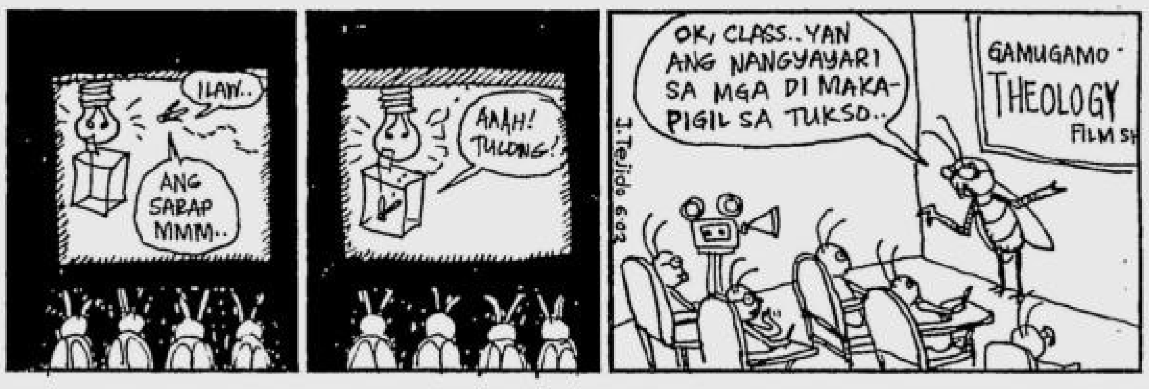
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ICE CREAM MELTING!
OH?
WAAAAH! IT'S MELTING!!
HERE LET ME WIPE!
WAAAH
OH! IT'S DRIPPING EVERYWHERE! WAIT-- HERE, MAYBE IF I LICK-
WAAAAH
BEN! REALLY! TAKING ICE CREAM FROM A CHILD!
WAAAAH

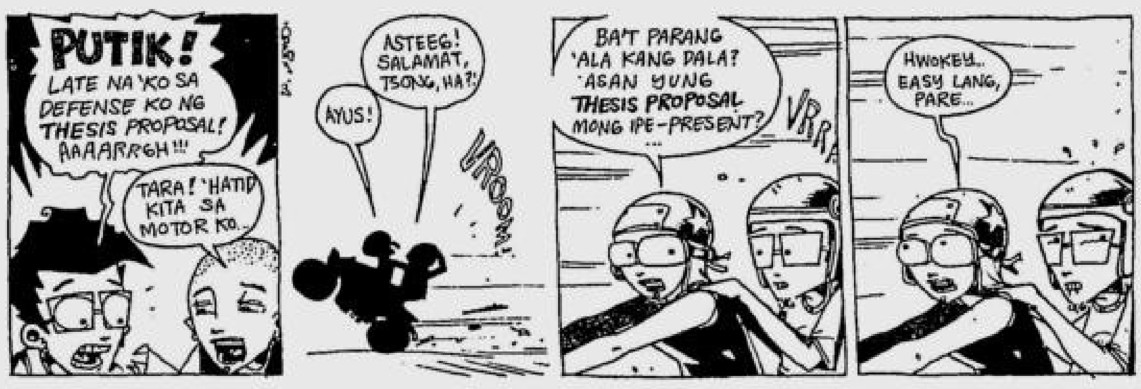
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ILAW..
ANG SARAP MMM..
AAAH! TULONG!
J. Tejido 6.02
OK, CLASS..YAN ANG NANGYAYARI SA MGA DI MAKA-PIGIL SA TUKSO..
GAMUGAMO THEOLOGY FILM SH

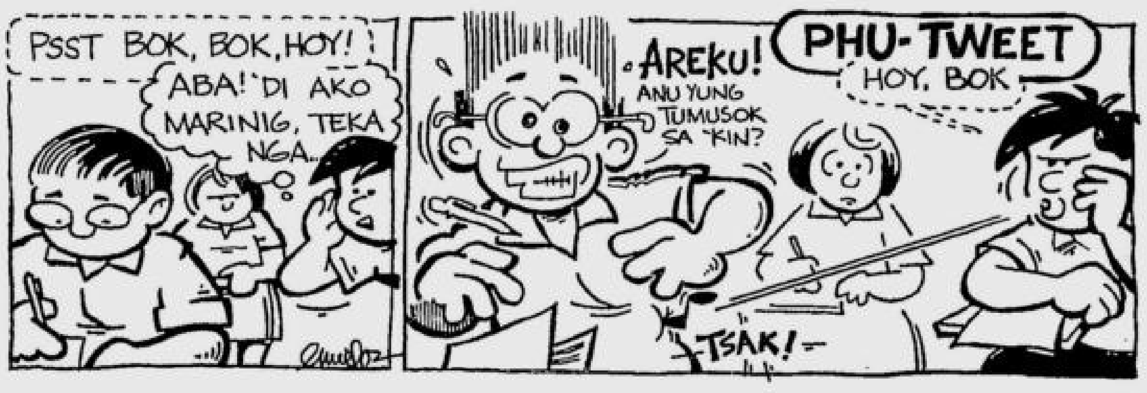
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK! LATE NA 'KO SA DEFENSE KO NG THESIS PROPOSAL! AAAARRGH!!!
TARA! 'HATID KITA SA MOTOR KO..
AYUS!
ASTEEG! SALAMAT, TSONG, HA?!
VROOOM!
BA'T PARANG 'ALA KANG DALA? 'ASAN YUNG THESIS PROPOSAL MONG IPE-PRESENT?
VRRR
HWOKEY.. EASY LANG, PARE..

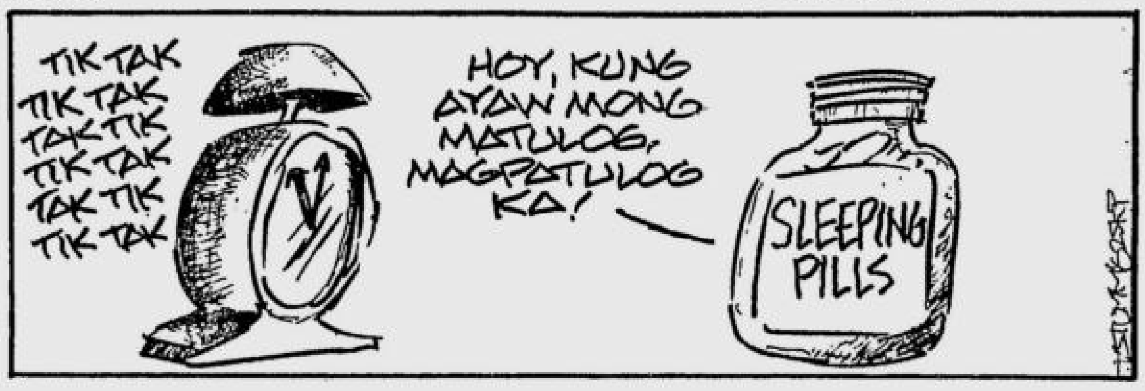
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


PSST BOK, BOK, HOY!
ABA! 'DI AKO MARINIG, TEKA NGA..
AREKU! ANU YUNG TUMUSOK SA 'KIN?
PHU-TWEET
HOY, BOK
TSAK!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TIK TAK TIK TAK TAK TIK TIK TAK TAK TIK TIK TAK
HOY, KUNG AYAW MONG MATULOG, MAGPATULOG KA!
SLEEPING PILLS

The 100th wish

JUNCEN, Jobo and Jayvee Vitug on a beach of Roxas City

PHOTOS BY MARI SWA

A hemophiliac's wish to see his grandfather, who is sick and lives alone in Capiz, is granted

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHEN Jobo Vitug was in Grade 1, he stayed for a time with his grandfather in Capiz. The firstborn in his family became a *lolo*'s boy.

Lolo José Barcas Jr., a lawyer and fishpond owner, lived alone with a maid in a subdivision in Roxas City. His children had grown up, had their own families and lived elsewhere. His daughter Jo Rosabeth, Jobo's mother, settled with her husband and three sons in Novaliches, Quezon City.

As is typical of many families, Barcas asked Jobo's parents to let the boy stay with him in the province, and he would take care of his grandson's upkeep and schooling.

Jobo was a naughty boy in school. He also often quarrelled with his *yaya* over who should sit beside his *lolo* on the front seat of the car every time the grandfather would drive him to and from school.

"*Loko-loko ka*, Flor," he would snarl at the maid, "*akala mo pakakasalan ka ng lolo ko?*"

At his age, Lolo José couldn't keep up with the boy's *kalikutan*. So when the school year ended, he returned Jobo to his parents. That was in 1995.

Meanwhile, when still a toddler, Jobo was found to have a blood disorder. The first telltale sign was the occasional appearance of hematoma (dark spots on the skin caused by the accumulation of blood within the tissues that clots to form a solid swelling). One time, when the boy was wounded, he underwent blood transfusion as the blood would not stop flowing.

Younger brothers Juncen and Jayvee were later found to have the same condition. Diagnosis: severe hemophilia A—a sex-linked, hereditary disorder characterized by deficient clotting of the blood and profuse bleeding. Sufferers are chiefly male. The female can only be a carrier of the disease.

The brothers are now under the care of Dr. Edwin Rodriguez, a children's physician specializing in blood disorders and tumors at the National Hemophilia Center in the University of Santo Tomas Hospital. He is assisted by medical technician Lorena Santos.

Delicate situation

"The condition is irreversible," says Rodriguez. "They have to go through life with it. It may lead to a crippling condition if not properly maintained."

Hemophilia is popularly known as the disease of royals. Rodriguez says there are 662 registered hemophiliacs in the country, but estimates put the number of sufferers at about 2,900.

Hemophilia is a very delicate situation and quite an expensive disease. A patient cannot get injured—not even a puncture—or he can bleed to death. Every time a hemophiliac travels, he has to bring along bags of blood.

And always kept handy for intravenous injection is Factor VIII, the blood-clotting agent the hemophiliac lacks. A vial of the concentrate costs P3,600, and a patient may need several vials a day.

THE VITUG siblings reunite with Lolo José.

"Since this is a lifetime disorder, it's also a lifetime expense," says the boys' father, Oscar Vitug Jr. "The family is exhausted not only by the mental anguish but also financially. I hope hemophiliacs in the country can get government subsidy for their medical needs, as they do in the United States and other countries."

Vitug was one of the employees of the Light Railway Transit who were retrenched after a general strike a few years ago. He has not had a regular job since. His wife is a piano teacher, but she has not taken any student lately.

The family income has been considerably depleted, and they have to make do with financial help from relatives. The children transferred from a private school to the public school. The father plans to apply as an immigrant to any country where the prospects of his getting a good job are good so he can give a brighter future for his sons.

"Worry *ko lang*, if I will not succeed in my plans," Vitug says feebly, "*kawawa sila. Magiging* cripple *sila.*"

Boy's remembrance

On the other hand, Jobo, now 13 and a high school freshman, had a different wish: to visit his grandfather in Capiz and go swimming with him. The boy last saw his grandfather some five years ago.

The grandfather, now 75, still lives alone in that subdivision in Roxas City. He has children in neighboring Iloilo City but he sees them only when he goes for medical checkup in that city. Unknown to the boy, the old man also has a life-threatening illness, prostate cancer.

Aware that time was of the essence, Jobo's mother filled up an application form with the Make-a-Wish Foundation (MAWF), the world's largest organization committed to granting the wishes of terminally ill children.

Her other sons also had their own wishes. Juncen, 7, wished to have a PlayStation 2. Jayvee, 6, wished to have a Gameboy.

At once the MAWF tried to find sponsors and organized the trip with the help of the Gerry Roxas Foundation in Capiz. The wish team, composed of Nizzi Regalado, Mari Swa, Tonton Gatmaitan and Mike Alimurung, prepared for the visit for about a month.

On Sept. 27, the Vitug family, Rodriguez and the medtech, and the four MAWF members arrived in Roxas City.

There was a heartwarming family reunion in José Barcas' house that morning. Jobo couldn't say a word. At the breakfast table, he was quietly weeping. The old man, watching the boy, couldn't help but also shed a few tears. The others quietly left the room to let the family have some private moment.

After breakfast, the boy stood at the door, furtively looking around, from the garden to the sala. He was inspecting the walls, the curtains, the old furniture, as if he was remembering something. Maybe he was checking if everything was just as he remembered.

Community service

For two days, the kids toured the city and the neighboring town of Pan-ay, from the museum to the fish wharf, from the bell tower to the beach. They even went on a boating expedition to a reef islet off the coast, where they saw sea urchins for the first time.

While swimming, the kids wore aqua-socks to protect their feet from sharp pebbles, broken seashells, craggy surface. The only glitch to Jobo's wish was that his *lolo* couldn't go swimming with them as the old man had a slight fever, having suffered chills a few days earlier.

Making full use of his visit and as public service, Rodriguez coordinated with Dr. Malou Roldan and Ruth Borres and gave a free lecture on hemophilia to the city's medical community. He also conducted blood screening and testing, and found two sufferers, a man in his early 50s and another in his late 20s.

The wish-granting proper was conducted on Sept. 28 in the Roxas residence.

It was, incidentally, MAWF's milestone 100th wish grant.

After a dinner consisting mostly of choice seafood, the siblings were given their hearts' desires: Gameboy for Jayvee, PlayStation 2 and a boxful of CDs for Juncen; and Lolo José by Jobo's side. Although a little drowsy, the kids perked up at the sight of their gifts.

The impromptu program ended with the handing out of certificates of participation, and the acknowledgement of donors, sponsors and support: the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Judy Araneta Roxas, Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo, Vice Gov. Victor Tanco, Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario, Councilor Mark Anthony Ortiz, the City Tourism Office, Pan-ay Mayor Felipe Barredo, President Roxas Mayor Raymund Locsin, Flat Rock Resort, Boy Aguirre, Thea Reyes, Emmanuel Billones, Alfonso Bediones Jr., Jollibee, MAWF-Texas, Sherwin Gatchalian, Tootsy Echauz and Reena Leechiu.

The kids are looking forward to a grand vacation in Roxas City next summer. It has all been planned. Just wish to God that, by then, Lolo José would still be there.

During the Make-a-Wish-Foundation International Convention in Pasadena, CA, two weeks ago, the Roxas City wish was a candidate for Best Wish, and MAWF-Philippines was nominated for Best Affiliate.

More encounters with spirits

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MY column on Oct. 8 regarding sexual encounters with spirits elicited more stories and questions from readers. Here are just two of them. All their names have been changed to protect their privacy.

Hand slashed by a spirit

I've always been afraid of things I don't understand. However, as I read your columns and acquired books about death, spirits and clairvoyance, my fears began to ease. I even began to appreciate them. Thank you for enlightening me.

There are several strange events that happened to me, which I cannot understand yet. One of them happened two years ago in Tawi-Tawi, where I was assigned for my first job. I rented a room in a four-story building. The other occupant was in the sala with her boyfriend. I stayed upstairs. Before I turned in for the night, I said my prayers. Then, the moment I went to sleep, the bed shook. I stood up and asked the other people if they felt it. Nobody did.

Again, one night, as I was preparing to go to bed, I felt a presence in the room. The room suddenly felt damp, heavy and hot at the same time, although the electric fan was on. Then I heard a voice saying, "Get out of this room, now!" I did.

Whenever I feel lonely, I hear this voice that says, "Everything will turn out okay." Who is this voice? It never fails to comfort me.

The scariest experience with a spirit happened when my then boyfriend visited me. We went up to my room and started making love. Suddenly, I felt a stinging pain in my hand. I looked down and saw my hand bleeding. There were two slashes obviously made by a thin blade, yet I did not have any blades in my room. Nor did I remember using a knife that day.

LILIA

It seems there is an earthbound spirit who follows you around, who is in love with you and gets jealous when you get intimate with a man. He has become both your protector and tormentor.

It is possible the same spirit who slashed your hand in a fit of jealousy is the same entity you first met in Tawi-Tawi.

Such an earthbound entity has refused to accept his death and wishes to experience once again physical life and physical pleasures. He can make life either miserable or pleasant for you because of his attachment to you.

You must contact right away a person who can talk to spirits so that the entity's burdens and confusions can be relieved. Otherwise, you will suffer from his strong attachment to you. He will prevent you from having intimate relationships with the opposite sex, and may even harm you and your love interest. There are ways of protecting yourself from such entities.

Raped

The second letter comes from Vilma, who encountered an incubus that forced himself sexually on her.

It happened seven years ago. I was raped by a spirit. When I consulted an Opus Dei priest about it, I was shocked when he asked me, "Did you enjoy it?"

Angrily, I told him I most definitely did not. I even showed him the black and blue hematoma on my thighs. But the insensitive Catholic priest even remarked that I was just making it up. So I just kept quiet and left him. I also left the Opus Dei, of which I was a member.

There's another strange experience I had. One night, as I was about to sleep, I felt somebody with me in my bed, but I could not see anything. The mattress was being pressed down as if somebody was lying down on it. I kept quiet and didn't move, just observing what was going to happen next.

Then I felt cold. And when I opened my eyes, I saw my blanket floating on top of me.

On another occasion, Oct. 31 to be exact, I saw a white smoky figure behind our electric fan. If it was smoke, it would had been absorbed by the fan. But no, the figure slowly floated and disappeared. I saw this smoky figure twice in my room. I told my Lola about it, but I wasn't sure if she believed me. I told this to a friend, and he said all these things were evil and I should just ignore them. Should I?

VILMA

You're another woman who is "*lapitin ng espirito.*" Spirits get attracted to you because you are an open channel, i.e., you are a natural medium and you are sensitive to spirit forces. The problem with open channels like you is that all types of spirits can use you, whether good, bad, high or low.

They show themselves to you and they make you witness paranormal spectacles, like a blanket floating. As in the case of Lilia, an earthbound spirit is attracted to you. But unlike her case, this spirit forces himself on you. So this is a real incubus, which can really be scary.

I cannot understand why some Catholic priests cannot believe that such sexual attacks by spirits can happen when church history is full of documented stories of such things happening, especially during the Middle Ages. Not much has changed about spirit encounters with the living except our attitude toward such incidents. Modern man tends to simply ignore these and dismiss them as figments of one's imagination.

Spirit encounters are real and can even be bloody at times. One male letter writer who was always plagued by spirits reported that he woke up with a bloody nose after fighting a spirit in his sleep. He asked what could be done to deal with such entities.

The first thing to do is to know more about the spirit and psychic world. Second, to strengthen one's will against them, and third, to develop a method to counteract them.

At the risk of sounding commercial, I suggest that they read my books and columns, attend my seminars and listen to my Sunday weekly radio program for a better understanding of these phenomena.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I failed to submit my Philhealth documents to the hospital during my confinement last month. MEDICard covered for my hospitalization but I had to pay for the Philhealth portion. Can I still reimburse the payment I made, and where will I file my claim?

Yes, you may still file reimbursement for your Philhealth coverage. Late Philhealth filing may still be done at the hospital where you were confined, but this is subject to the hospital's policies. Otherwise, you have to file your claim at the nearest Philhealth regional office. You are given a 60-day grace period from the date of your discharge to accomplish all required documentation.

Meet your MEDICard Team

At Medical City General Hospital (MCGH), members may seek the services of MEDICard specialist **Dr. Maria Cecilia Gilbuela-Vicencio**. Dr. Vicencio is an Obstetrician and Gynecologist. She also subspecializes in OB-Gyne Ultrasound. Doc Cecilia, a Medicine graduate of UERM-MMC, has more than 10 years of clinical experience and has been MEDICard's accredited service provider since 1996. She finished her specialization training at MCGH and her residency training for her subspecialization at Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation Hospital. You may visit Dr. Vicencio for your OB-Gynecological consultation needs at her clinic, Room 308 of the Medico Bldg., every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM to 12 noon.

General Surgery is the chosen field of specialization of MEDICard accredited specialist **Dr. William Legaspi Olalia.** Dr. Olalia has with him more than 20 years of clinical training and has been MEDICard's accredited specialist for more than 10 years now. He finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took his residency training for General Surgery at the UST Hospital. Dr. Olalia also subspecializes in Laparoscopic Surgery. He is married to physician Dr. Maria Salve Olalia and has been blessed with seven children. Doc William is affiliated with a number of specialty organizations, to name a few with the Philippine Medical Association and Philippine College of Surgeons. For your consultation needs, visit Room 1001 of the Medical Arts Bldg. from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

MEDICard members may seek the expertise of **Dr. Roderick S. Ramos**, MEDICard accredited specialist based in Biñan Doctors Hospital, Bo. Platero, Biñan, Laguna. Dr. Ramos or "Doc" for short, specializes in Internal Medicine. He finished Medicine at St. Louis University in Baguio City and took his residency training for his specialization at the Tarlac Provincial Hospital. Doc Roderick has been a part of our top-notch accredited service providers since 1996. He is also affiliated with the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Medical Association. For consultations, visit Dr. Ramos' clinic, Room 111 every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

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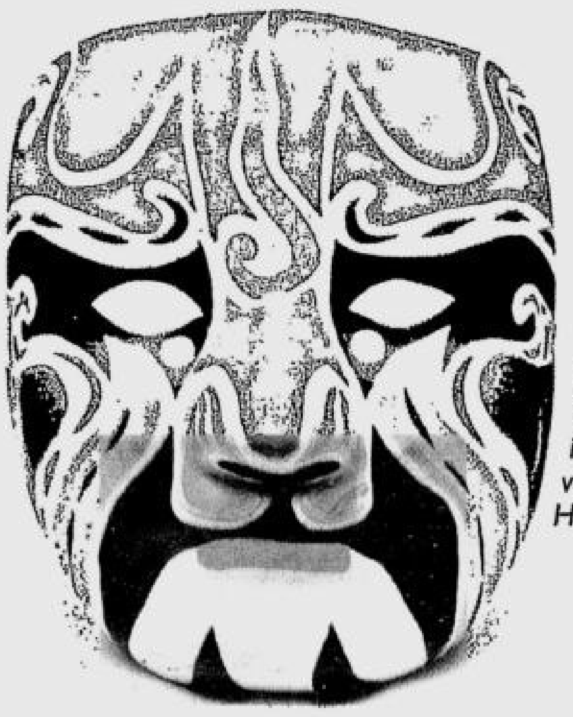

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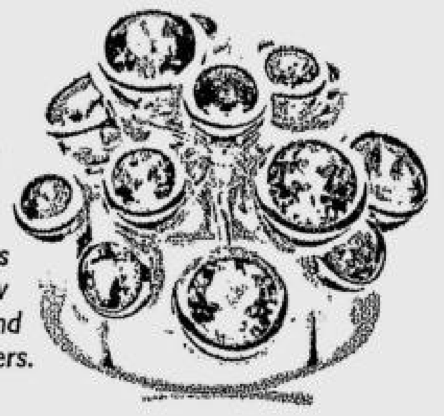

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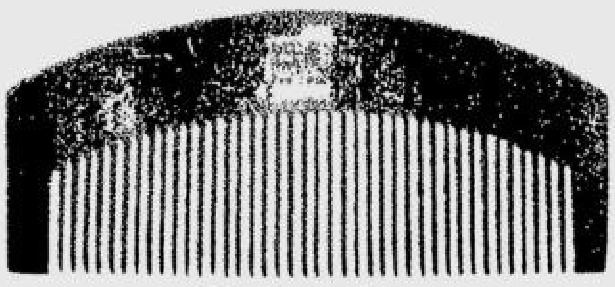

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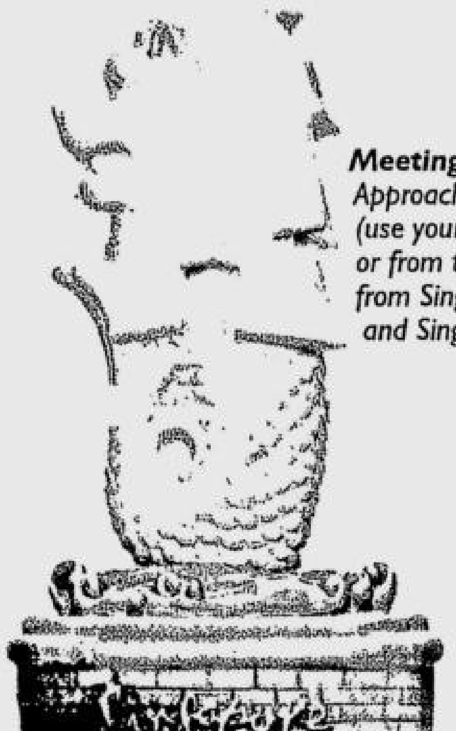
See the Images of Singapore and The Merlion on Sentosa Island; and the wonders of the Singapore Discovery Centre. You'll learn quite a few new things. Admission vouchers provided.



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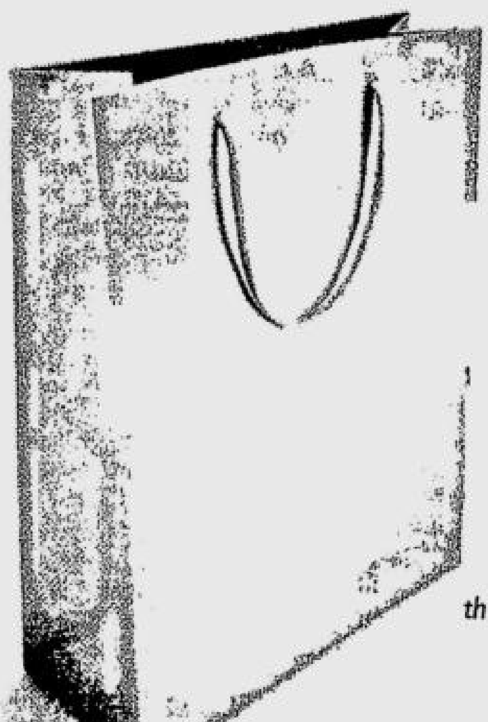

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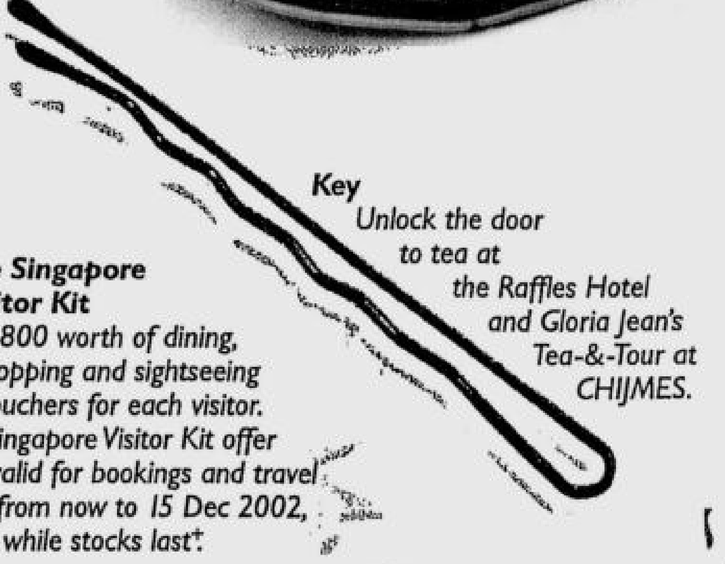

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For more information, please call Singapore Tourism Board, c/o Nancy Harel & Associates, Inc. Tel: 02-636-0258. Fax: 02-636-0259. Email: stbphils@pacific.net.ph